

IJMA3 Report

The Premier Arab ICT Organization

July- August 2007- Issue # 6

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Ramadan Greetings

RAMADAN KARIM!

On behalf of all of us at IJMA3, we would like to extend to all of our members, guest members, partners and friends warmest wishes. We hope the season sees continued progress in the ICT arena throughout the region, and brings to each of you prosperity, success and happiness.

With best wishes from the IJMA3 staff

Secretary General's Message

As members of the premier Arab Information and Communication Technology Organization, it is our mission to promote ICT related knowledge and skills among the citizens of the MENA region, as well as to those throughout the world. We are committed to capacity and skills building, which will hopefully further the continued development of ICT.

WITSA Opens New Office

Nizar Zakka, WITSA's Vice-Chairman, has been tapped to head the new regional office for WITSA. Mr. Zakka, a US educated ICT expert, said "ICT is an important source of growth for the region. The opening of a regional WITSA office in Beirut is a testament to the importance of the Middle East on the global ICT map, and the importance of the partnership between different regions in harnessing ICT for growth." Mr. Zakka brings particular experience to the table in community-based initiatives aiming to bridge the digital divide, and promoting the regional ICT sector in domestic, regional and international markets... Read More

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The E-Challenges E-2007 Conference & Exhibition

The Hague, Netherlands (October 24 – 26, 2007)

The eChallenges e-2007 Conference & Exhibition takes place in the beautiful city of The Hague (Den Haag). This is the seventeenth in a series of annual technology research conferences supported by the European Commission. The conference regularly attracts over 600 delegates from leading commercial, government and research organizations around the world to share knowledge and experience, lessons learnt and good practice in areas related to the application of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). results by industry and government, and to promote.... *Read More*

GPPC 2007

Cairo, Egypt (November 04-06, 2007)

The Global Public Policy Conference (GPPC) is one of two flagship events held by the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA). An estimated 400 senior business executives, government officials and academics from more than 60 countries are expected to gather at this prestigious event. GPPC 2007 Egypt will be held under the auspices of his Excellency Dr. Tarek Kamel, Egypt Minister of Communication and Information Technology, and will be attended by several Ministers and government officials from different sectors and regions... *Read More*

Algeria's Premier International Broadcasting & Entertainment Technology Exhibition

Algeria (November 25-28, 2007)

Diffusion & Multimedia 2007 aims to become Algeria's premier specialist international trade exhibition, which brings together in one event all the fields pertaining to broadcasting, digital multimedia and entertainment technology. Diffusion & Multimedia 2007 will bring together a variety of stakeholders representing various facets of the media, broadcasting, and communication industries... Read More

<u>Cambodia Consumer Electronics Show</u>

Cambodia (January 27-28, 2008)

Cambodia's economy is surging at an annual average rate of 9 to 10% over the last few years and the country has the potential to be the next Asian tiger. Property & real estate prices have shot up several hundred times lately and consumers' purchasing power has increased accordingly. Today Cambodians have switched from purchasing used consumer electronics equipment such as PCs, laptops, mobile phones and AV equipment and now prefer to buy the new and latest models. A new era for electronics has arrived, and this is an opportunity for you to penetrate & expand in this once ignored market... Read More

private company launched the «DSL»

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- **26.** [Tunisia] Tunisia 's progress in the field of IT
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- 28. [Tunisia] MOU between Acer and Tunis Air

E-Government Conference and Exhibition

Saudi Arabia (March 2-5, 2008)

Consumers in the Arab world are becoming more sophisticated technologically. The growth of internet used in the Arab world has forced governments and related organizations to admit and utilize the Internet as a delivery means for information and services. Through massive investment in new technology, the region will be forced to invest heavily in real-time solutions, which are essential if governments want to successfully implement the trend and upgrade their delivery services. The move into e-Government is gaining momentum as governments realize the importance of implementing such systems, and the dangers of being left behind. Recent policy amendments and attempts of security breeches gave further enhancement to the national plan for encouraging investment on enhancing IT security and interoperability to efficiently meet new challenges that will arise in near future. Read More

WCIT 2008 to be held in Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur (May 18-22, 2008)

Held once every two years on a different continent, the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) is the signature forum of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), a consortium of 73 information technology (IT) industry associations that represents over 90% of the world's IT market. A handover ceremony was held at WCIT 2006 in Austin Texas where WITSA Chairman George Newstrom oversaw the handover of the symbolic Crystal as a symbolic gesture of Malaysia being the next WCIT host in 2008 to Chairman of WCIT 2008 Badlisham Ghazali and Lee Boon Kok, Chairman of the Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia (PIKOM)... Read More

IJMA3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Learn Assessment Awareness

Lebanon (September 24th, 2007)

The Union of Arab ICT Associations (IJMA3) conducted a detailed survey in July 2007, determining integration of information and communications technologies (ICT) familiarity levels in ten schools across Lebanon. After examining the results, based on observations by administrative staff and teachers concerning ICT knowledge level in schools, the following proposal would fulfill the essential ICT equipment and support needs indispensable for each school. The major goal of the proposed project is to build and encourage use of ICT by the staff in each school and by integrating it to a large extent to teaching. ...Read More

The Platform

Following the July 2006 conflict that left the already staggering economy glooming, rebuilding remains incomplete. What needs pressing attention is upgrading the skills among the Lebanese youth and female demographics, and retaining promising youngsters / entrepreneurs who otherwise have limited foreseeable prospects. The "**PLATFORM**" will be located in the Beirut suburb of "BOURJ AL BARAJNE". With the help of Mercy Corps & IJMA3 it is destined to reach its objective by providing ICT as well as business management / development training and support services…Read More

ICT Activity Day Report

Lebanon (August 25th, 2007)

The Union of Arab ICT Associations (IJMA3) in cooperation with Mercy Corps, Microsoft and the Lebanese Sporting Club, Bint Jbeil provided an ICT activity program for the teenagers of Bint Jbeil to help them overcome the negative consequences of the recent conflict. This activity day gave these teenagers a chance to interact with their peers in an amicable and non-threatening environment. The objective of the project was to show these teenagers that technology is not only about learning useful skills, but is also about exploration and enjoyment... Read More

LATEST EVENTS

GITEX 2007

Dubai (September 08-12, 2007)

ICT companies based in Lebanon were invited to join the "ICT Lebanon" pavilion in Gitex 2007 - Dubai, for promoting their products and services. Dubai presents tremendous opportunities for the ICT sector in the Middle East and Gulf region. Its markets remain the ideal hub to access other countries with high potential, such as Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sultanate Oman, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq. Over the past years, the success and reputation of the "ICT Lebanon" pavilion at GITEX has positively reflected on many Lebanese software companies, now highly recognized as prime solution providers by most countries in the region. The Lebanese pavilion consisted of 9 square meter stands. GITEX is among the world's top 3 ICT Exhibitions and is located in the business hub of the Middle East. A recent IDC report estimated that IT spending in the region will exceed \$45bn by 2010 compared to \$30bn in 2006, making it the perfect platform for companies looking to take advantage of the phenomenal growth taking place in the IT industry in the region... Read More

GITEX Shopper & Consumer Electronics Expo 2007

Dubai (September 08-12, 2007)

GITEX Shopper & Consumer Electronics Expo 2007 - the undisputed leader in technology retailing in the Middle East, has now moved closer to providing consumers an entire range of digital convergence and latest technology by adding "leisure and lifestyle electronics" to its already established portfolio of IT, Consumer Electronics, Digital Mobility, Office Automation and Gaming & Entertainment. GITEX Shopper, now in its 17th year, has a well established track record of attracting potential buyers from the GCC, Iran, North Africa, the CIS and the Indian subcontinent. This high energy event significantly influences the retail trends of the region thus providing the ... Read More

<u>Iraq Telecoms 2007</u>

Iraq (September 03-05, 2007)

The conference was held under the patronage of H.E. Mohammed Tawfik Allawi The Iraqi Minister of Communications who headed a delegation of senior officials from the Ministry. Iraq Telecom 2007 was the ideal place for you to hear first-hand from representatives from the Ministry of Communications about plans for the further development of Iraq's Telecommunications network and the investment opportunities available in this dynamic sector. The event also presented a unique opportunity to network with current and incumbent operators in Iraq and discuss their experience, strategies and lessons learned... *Read More*

Third ICT Security Forum In Syria

Syria (July 30-31, 2007)

ICT security today is considered an important factor in the international business sector. However, it is still at a very early stage in the Middle East. This forum, aimed at establishing a link between companies & specialists on one hand, and workers and users of these technologies in the Middle East on the other, aimed to present the latest in the field of ICT technology, and to discuss the current situation in the region in an attempt to develop ICT security by enforcing accurate and active practices in this sector. The presence of international networks and the development of the mobile communication networks have provided ... Read More

"Information Society Technologies" Conference

Lebanon (July 27, 2007)

The Professional Computer Association of Lebanon (PCA), the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, the European Commission's Information Society, and the Union of Arab ICT Associations (IJMA3) organized a one day conference on "Information Society Technologies (IST)." The conference was held on 27th of July 2007, under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Marwan Hamadi, Lebanese Minister of Telecommunication... *Read More*

MAP-IT Information day on "Information Society Technologies"

Syria (July 29, 2007)

The "MAP-IT Information Day" was organized by the Syrian Computer Society (SCS), in collaboration with the UNESCO, the European Commission and the Union of Arab ICT Associations (IJMA3). This day was dedicated to cooperation in the EU's Framework Programs on Research and Innovation; with special emphasis on the "Information Society Technologies" component of the program. The event targeted all ICT stakeholders who are interested in cooperating with the EU... Read More

IJMA3 Member News

Speech and therapy software for speech disabled

Algeria (August 6, 2007)

Touch & Talk Software International has launched its Touch & Talk Speech Communication and Therapy Software package. The Touch & Talk system is a speech communication and therapy tool for patients suffering from strokes, ALS, MD, autism, cancer, trauma and other speech communication disabilities. Patients simply point, click, tap or type words from alphabetized word or phrase lists to build sentences and Touch & Talk's built-in text-to-speech engine will narrate the intended text to speech with a male or female voice through the computer's speakers... Read More

Open communications — enabling the next generation for healthcare

Algeria (July 31, 2007)

Even more so than in the business world, the ability for hospitals to deliver fast and effective patient care within a limited budget is critical to success. It's no wonder therefore that, like businesses, hospitals are increasingly looking to the capabilities and benefits offered by the latest communications technology. Communications, whether in a local surgery between GP and patient or between consultants and their teams in the operating theater, are critical to the speed and efficacy of patient care. The standard of the physical communications network can make a... Read More

Bahrain reviews number portability

Bahrain (August 20, 2007)

Bahrain's telecoms watchdog said on Sunday: "Bahrain reviews number portability to introduce a policy to allow customers to keep their phone numbers when they switch operators, raising pressure on Batelco to cut prices and improve service". Restrictions on mobile-number portability have prevented people from switching their phone service even if they are dissatisfied with prices or service, director of the Bahrain Telecoms Regulatory Authority (TRA) Alan Horne said. "A high percentage of consumers would like to change their operator, but they're not prepared to do that unless they can keep their number," Horne mentioned... <u>Read More</u>

New business courses

Bahrain (July 08, 2007)

The residents of Bahrain will be offered world-class business education, including specialized Master's programs, by Cass Business School. The representative of Cass Business School and the Dubai International Financial Centre ('DIFC') announced the salient features of the initiative during an information session to introduce the new regional Cass Executive MBA (EMBA) program at the Crowne Plaza Hotel... *Read More*

Green packet makes Bahrain its Gulf base

Bahrain (July 27, 2007)

Green Packet held a forum at the Mercure Grand Hotel, Seef, to meet its GCC partners, under the banner "Turning Partnership into Revenue." "Green Packet came to Bahrain to show companies our Self Organizing Network (SON) Series and to also meet companies that would be interested in a 100 per cent partnership with Green packet," Chief Executive Officer Michael Lai told the GDN. He said the SON Series was a next-generation network solution that allowed users to access their own personal broadband Internet link from wherever they may be, in a world where workers must be increasingly mobile... *Read More*

Microsoft Bahrain Country Manager to assume new role at Microsoft Egypt

Egypt (August 27, 2007)

Microsoft's Mohammad Bayoumi's new position sees him remain in the Microsoft family in a role where he will be responsible for overseeing all enterprise customer relationships at Microsoft Egypt. Microsoft has enjoyed a strong presence in Bahrain, celebrating its fourth anniversary recently with the announcement that the Bahrain office is now one of the global offices where MEA employees can choose to be based. The expansion of Microsoft's operations was heralded by the move to larger premises located in the Seef District, confirming the company's dedication to... *Read More*

Egypt wants a Bite of Indian Call Center Market

Egypt (August 21, 2007)

Egypt has set its sights on grabbing a share of the multi-billion dollar, Indian-dominated call center market and is looking to an unexpected corner for a helping hand — India. As it makes its pitch to the world, touting a multilingual workforce over India's English-speakers, a time zone shared with Europe and proximity to the US, Egypt is marketing its edge over India to India itself. The government has sent a high-level delegation to India to convince the IT behemoth to sub-outsource its outsourcing to Egypt. Several cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed between the two countries, and Indian industry giants such as Wipro and Satyam have signed ... Read More

Egypt to be outsourcing India of the Middle East

Egypt (August 21, 2007)

In a recent report by the Yankee Group published in the British IT Week magazine, Egypt was described as a "nation well-placed as the next hot spot for IT outsourcing and business process outsourcing (BPO)". "Egypt is poised to become the 'India of the Middle East' as it seeks to ramp up its share of the global outsourcing market," the report noted citing experts' predictions. The Yankee Group report said that "more multinational companies are using IT outsourcing and BPO as tools to transform their organizations into global operations"... Read More

Egypt - New Kid on the Global ICT Block!

Egypt (August 02, 2007)

Egypt is no longer famous only for its pyramids. The country's telecom market, the largest in North Africa, is becoming attractive at both regional and international levels. Senior executives from Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) were quoted by the news on Albawaba mentioning Egypt being identified by regional and global companies as an important market for growth in several vital areas like telecommunications, IT solutions, and consumer technology. The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) recently commissioned a report that estimated the current value of Egypt's exports of Information Communication and Technology ... Read More

Asia cell Consortium successful in bid for Iraq GSM license

Iraq (August 19, 2007)

The Asia cell Consortium was informed that it was successful in bidding for one of three GSM licenses being tendered by the Communications and Media Commission of Iraq. The successful consortium is comprised of Asia cell Iraq - one of Iraq's leading telecommunication operators; Qtel a rapidly expanding regional operator; and Merchant Bridge - a leading investment bank with extensive MENA and European activities. The Asia cell Consortium will operate through a new company Asia cell Communications LLC (ACL). The Asia cell Consortium, which is ... Read More

Jordan's Youth Commission "We Are All Jordan" goes online

Jordan (August 08, 2007)

"We Are All Jordan" Youth Commission has been taking practical steps in executing the action plan resulting from the Youth Forum held in September 2006. A major milestone was the launching of a comprehensive and dynamic Web presence for the Commission to provide online interaction with among Jordanian youth. The new website, www.allyouth.jo, designed by ESKADENIA and fully developed using ESKADENIA's advanced content management system, provides a myriad of online features and services that make visiting the website an interesting and insightful experience for youth.... Read More

Javna selects Integrated Systems as marketing partner in Saudi Arabia

Jordan (August 7, 2007)

Javna, the leading Arab company specializing in mobile media and wireless applications, has announg has chosen Integrated Systems Company as its reseller partner in Saudi Arabia. Under the agreemen Integrated Systems, a pioneering Gulf firm in the field of software solutions and specialized electronic applications, is tasked with marketing Javna's wireless services and products and promoting its smart applications in the Saudi market. Commenting on the deal, Mobile Media & Hosted Services Director Nasser said the agreement is part of Javna's future outlook and an embodiment of its strategy aimed a enhancing its presence in the GCC countries... Read More

Intaj Launches "SABEQ"

Jordan (August 1, 2007)

Int@j officially launches Jordan's new National ICT Strategy 2007-2011 and announces its implementation plan, and signs a Memorandum of Understanding with "SABEQ" that offers technical and financial support for the organization and the strategy. Under the patronage of H.E Eng. Bassem Al Rousan, Minister of ICT and with the attendance of H.R.H. Princess Sumaya Bint El Hasan, the Information Technology Association – Jordan (int@j) launched Jordan's National ICT ... Read More

Int@j presented the National ICT strategy to His Majesty, King Abdullah II Jordan (July 08, 2007)

Aug 6 2007 - Jordan Kuwait Bank's (JKB) decision to opt for a Sun Microsystems server and operating system (OS) solution has resulted in an increase in productivity and drastic reduction in operational expenditure on core applications, the companies announced today. 'Banks are dynamic organizations and demand technology-enabled options that offer maximum return on investment and provide the flexibility necessary to manage periodic regulatory, economic, and ... <u>Read More</u>

Kuwait Bank cashes in on Sun implementation

Jordan (August 6, 2007)

Jampro Antennas has been awarded a contract by the Kuwait Ministry of Information. The order includes a Jampro model JADP 12-Bay FM broad band panel antenna, a 4-frequency Jampro combiner unit, a Jampro motorized output patching-splitting system and Jampro's Proline brand of dual-feed rigid transmission line. The equipment will be used as part of an upgrade to improve coverage of Kuwait's KABD, the largest of the country's three radio networks. KABD has 20 FM and SW transmitters broadcasting in English and Arabic, covering Kuwait and reaching out to the entire Gulf region ... Read More

Radio To Improve Gulf Area Coverage With Jampro

Kuwait (July 31, 2007)

(MENAFN Press) Kuwait's ICT industry gathered at GITEX TECHNOLOGY WEEK in September to showcase the impressive strides the country has made in major ICT sectors, whilst strengthening relationships with key customers and partners. The GCC nation, along with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, boasts one of the fastest-growing ICT markets in the region. Significant technology infrastructure investment has facilitated progress, resulting in advancements within the country's growing ICT industry... Read More

<u>Kuwaiti ICT industry leverages GITEX technology week to extend global reach</u> *Kuwait (July 24, 2007)*

(MENAFN Press) Kuwait's ICT industry is set to gather at GITEX TECHNOLOGY WEEK this September to showcase the impressive strides the country has made in major ICT sectors, whilst strengthening relationships with key customers and partners.

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Tunisia, Kuwait boost educational cooperation

Kuwait (July 15, 2007)

TUNIS, July 15 (KUNA) -- Tunisian Minister of Education and Vocational Training Sadok Korbi said Sunday overall educational cooperation will be boosted with Kuwait. Speaking to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Korbi said in light of holding the upcoming meeting of Tunisian-Kuwaiti joint committee on July 17-18 in Kuwait, the Minister stressed that cooperation will definitely be bolstered. Kuwait already hires over 200 Tunisian teachers in Mathematics, Arabic language, English, French, as well as athletics, he noted. Korbi lauded adopting the Arab educational development document adopted for 2008-2017 by the 4th Ministerial Conference of the ... Read More

National Network for Education requires funding

Lebanon (August 27, 2007)

In Lebanon, departments of education and the teachers colleges are connected to the Ministry of Education through the Internet SchoolNet, an extensive network, providing quick and sophisticated access to the latest communications techniques in the world. Software applications suited to the nature of the departments work in the ministry, as well as the personnel training on a number of those applications has been carried out. *Read More*

«Cable 1» second private company launched the «DSL»

Lebanon (August 26, 2007)

The General Manager of investment and maintenance in the Ministry of Communications, Chairman and General manager of OGERO, Abdul Mun'im Youssef believes that Lebanon is witnessing the renewal of the means to provide an important public service to citizens, through the application of a retail agreement between the public and the private and public sector in the application of the DSL. Yousef's comments came during the ceremony to launch the DSL service through Cable 1, which was held in the Central Ras Beirut, Sakiyat Al-Janzir, yesterday, with the presence of the company General Manager, Khaldoun Farhat, the Sales Manager, Mike Tfaili, in addition to the General Manager of the construction and processing in the Ministry ... *Read More*

Morocco boosts cancer fight with telemammography technology Morocco (August 1, 2007)

A breast Cancer screening center using the tele-mamography technology was launched, on Monday, for the first time in Morocco and the Middle East region, part of Morocco's strategy to boost the fight against cancer. Set up by the "Lala Salma Association Against cancer" in collaboration with the Brussels Coordination Center for Breast Cancer Screening (BRUMAMMO), this center is expected to provide high-quality screening services (telemammography) for approximately 1000 women in the Rabat region to be extended in the future to the rest of the country. Digital mammograms, made and analyzed at the National Institute of Oncology... *Read More*

Apebi menée conjointement par l'Apebi et la SFI

Morocco (July 9, 2007)

Dans le cadre du Contrat Progrès 2006-2012, le Gouvernement marocain a considéré les objectifs ambitieux visés et la nécessité d'accompagner la stratégie de développement du secteur, par une dynamique active de promotion. Aussi, afin d'augmenter le potentiel exportateur des entreprises du secteur, l'Apebi - Fédération Marocaine des Technologies de l'Information, des Télécommunications et de l'Offshoring - a décidé de ... Read More

Postage Fraud Notification From the Ministry of Telecom & IT

Palestine (August 8, 2007)

Philatelists and Stamp dealers all over the world, particularly those who are interested in the Palestinian stamps, were notified that some websites offer false and forged post stamps proclaiming that they are Palestinian post stamps, while in fact they are not so. They neither belong to the Palestinian post nor to the Palestinian Notional Authority... <u>Read More</u>

<u>Training course began on the sectoral and institutional modernization</u> Syria (August 19, 2007)

Under the revised standards technique of information and communication in the administrative sector and institutional events, a training session was held in cooperation between the European Union projects to update institutional and retail. With more than 60 trainees, the training session aimed to update institutional and retail (ISMF) and the draft (ICT) section on the Ministry of Communications and technology and the organization of contacts in Damascus... <u>Read More.</u>

Where do the special needs of modern technology stand?

Syria (August 08, 2007)

Modern inventions that could reduce the distance between those with special needs and technology is crucial are critical; they must receive all the support and attention by the officials responsible for this. However, to date, support has been less than it needs to be.... *Read More*

Tunisia 's progress in the field of IT

Tunisia (August 6, 2007)

According to the recently released 2007 report of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Tunisia achieved considerable progress in the field of information technologies. Tunisia was the first African and Arab country to have been connected to the internet in 1991, and has the second largest online penetration on the continent. While the growth of fixed telephone lines experienced a decline, the mobile telephone sector witnessed a nationwide upsurge following the granting of a second license to ORASCOM-Telecom (Tunisian) in 2002... Read More

Tunisia 's laboratory network to be expanded

Tunis (July 26, 2007)

Tunis , July 26, 2007- (TunisiaOnline) --Tunisia 's specialized laboratory network is to be expanded from 60 to 80 accredited laboratories during the country's 11th development plan (2007-2011). The news was announced by Mr Afif Chelbi, Tunisia's Minister of Industry, energy and small and medium enterprises, during an official signing ceremony between the Ministry and representatives of technical centers. The Minister underscored the importance of these centers in boosting industrial investment, while noting the qualitative leap these centers have witnessed, as well the upgrading their working conditions have been conducive to meet the demands of the industrial network at a crucial stage of the country's economic liberalization program... *Read More*

MOU between Acer and Tunis Air

Tunis (July 20, 2007)

Acer Computer, the Middle East and Africa's leading supplier of notebook computers, has signed a deal to supply Tunis Air with high-end Acer desktops. Acer has committed to delivering almost 500 units of high-end Veriton commercial desktops to the airline. Maintaining its strong presence in the country, the IT vendor already has existing contracts to supply desktops to the Tunisian Ministry of Education. "This agreement is another significant milestone for Acer, as it reflects the strength of Acer as a brand within the region's aviation sector," said Mohammed Hilili, Country Sales Manager, North & West Africa, Acer Computer, (M.E) Ltd... <u>Read More</u>

For inquiries, please contact:

SECRETARY GENERAL

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