

**INTRODUCTION**

The Jerusalem Arab chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the Federation of the Palestinian chambers of Commerce contributed to and participated in the preparation of the Palestinian law for the chambers of Commerce.

The chamber's Board of Directors, the administration and staff are too conscious to develop the services and improve the skills of the staff under severe conditions. They also recognize the importance of the chamber's need for administrative reforms; such as restructuring and upgrading its services and departments, hence, it is hoped to establish the following sections:

- Advisory and consultancy unit.
- Economic studies unit.
- Public relations department
- Develop its data and information base.

Besides, the Board will seek to employ more skilled staff to work on economic and financial matters related to the chamber's activities.

**DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

Throughout the years of its operations, the JACCI, has made significant achievements.

Our strategic plan focuses on expanding our partnerships and cooperation with the European Chambers of Commerce, and with the rest of the world, for exchange of experiences, and joint ventures.

The Palestinian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, lack experience and know-how regarding international business activities.

Why the Palestinian Chambers, are not able to offer special marketing, and foreign programs?

- Prior to the Paris Agreement, Palestine was almost totally dependent on the economy of Israel for trade and employment opportunities. The agreement itself did not satisfy the needs of the Palestinian economy.

- The PNA started building its own economy. It was hoped that this process would develop the Palestinian National Economy and correct the economic imbalance that exists with Israel, but unfortunately the start up of the Intifada has deteriorated sharply the Palestinian economy, hence, our daily life under occupation, blockades, checkpoints, shelling houses and killings has become unbearable.
- The isolation of the occupied territories and the fence construction works, crossing agricultural roads, and cutting off residents from their water supply sources, from schools, businesses, and public services, etc.... forbids the private sector as well as the Palestinian chambers of commerce from taking part in developing international business.
- Technical installation and facilities concerning PC-network and modern communication are available but not very efficient. Consequently, there is a total lack of international contacts and marketing know-how.

**HOW TO OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES:**

- By ending the occupation and reaching a peaceful agreement that will give a push to the economy, not only for the Palestinian economy, but also for the whole region.
- By establishing operational twinning between Palestinian and European chambers of commerce.
- By promoting staff participation in local, regional and international workshops, seminars, and training courses.
- By implementing joint projects, and economic cooperation, to facilitate the development of bilateral contacts and initiatives.

The chamber is currently improving its use of information technology by appointing a new staff member, expert in the field of exporting technology supported by Sweden (SIDA), and it is hoped that this will embark on a training program to improve the competence of the staff in the use of IT. It is also hoped that the chamber will start establishing networks and communication channels with the rest of the world.

**ACTIVITIES:**

We state hereunder the different services rendered during the period 1/1/2003 to 25/11/2003:

- 278 newly registered members.
- 890 members settled their membership fees.
- 1100 entry permits to visit Jordan.
- Certificates of origin issued for this year totaled 53 certificates.
- 1531 membership ID card.
- Provided statistical information derived from the chamber database.
- The chamber's emblem has been redesigned and colored.
- The Chamber distributed new information about Trade Fairs.
- The new Web Site has been already published on the internet; the site contains full information that any one may need about membership and services.
- The Arabic version of the web site is under construction.



**Xmas & New Year 2004**

**Ramadan & Eid AL Fitr**

The Board of Directors, the Administration and Staff of the Jerusalem Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Wish you the best wishes for the advent of Xmas and New Year 2004.

Congratulate our business community and wish them every success and prosperity.