Siraj NGO Spring Update

To our friends and supporters,

Happy Spring Holidays! In the past few months Siraj broadened its reach to the Bedouin community, continuing to create tangible opportunities for teens, young adults, teachers, parents, and community leaders to engage directly with the tech industry. Through these efforts and through the brilliant team of engineers at our daughter-company, Siraj Technologies Ltd., we will pave attainable career paths for young Bedouins to enter the industry, expanding opportunity for economic wellbeing and communal growth. This update includes highlights of our community outreach activities throughout the winter and early spring, culminating in the first Hackathon for Bedouin teens in the Negev. We are also excited to introduce our CEO, Fahima Atawna. Keep reading for more!

Meet Siraj's first CEO: Fahima Atawna

Fahima brings experience in civil society, industry, and the public sector. Prior to joining Siraj, she worked as the Program Manager on women's health promotion at AJEEC-NISPED. In the public sector Fahima served as Coordinator at the Ministry of Environment. Fahima started her career working in the chemical industry in the Negev. Read more about Fahima in this recent interview.

By the numbers
- **Over 300 students, young professionals, and high schoolers networked at Siraj meetups**
- **220 high schoolers attended talks about hi-tech**
- **50 high schoolers competed in first ever Negev Hackathon**

Hackathon AlNaqab

Siraj held Israel's first Hackathon, an application development competition for Bedouin teens, in Be'er Sheva on April 7. The inaugural event convened fifty 10th and 11th graders from the towns and cities of Hura, Rahat, Rahme, Umm Batin, and Nitzana. Students competed in groups of five to develop applications, with creative inventions including apps to help people with poor vision send text messages, calculate a household's electricity usage, borrow second-hand books, and order meals for children in orphanages. Students were guided by technological mentors including their teachers (who had been trained by Siraj prior to the event) and engineers from Siraj Technologies. We were proud to host a

stellar panel of judges that included leaders from medicine, academia, education, and engineers from DELL EMC.

We cannot overstate the impact of events like the Hackathon, as well as our ongoing outreach. They create a buzz that quickly multiplies in the tight-knit Bedouin community and have a powerful effect on the communal perception of hi-tech. We estimate that through publicity and word-of-mouth, including coverage in Arabic press, news of the Hackathon reached 10,000 people! The Hackathon was made possible in partnership with the Tamar Center and several Bedouin municipalities.

School Visits

So far in the 2018-2019 school year, Siraj has engaged with 220 students at 7 high schools in the towns of Rahat, Lakiya, Tel Sheva, Abu Tlul, Nitzana, and Qasr Al'Sar. These include hosting groups of students at our offices at WeWork Be'er Sheva, where they interact first-hand with a hi-tech work environment, as well as visits by Siraj NGO staff and Siraj Ltd. engineers to high school math and science classes.

Meetups

Meetups provide an opportunity for high school students as well as university students and young professionals to network in a professional, tech-focused environment. Our latest meetup took place in February and included a lecture by the Head of Development at Netafim. Approximately 80 young people attended.

Siraj in the News

- Siraj Technologies CEO Othman Alshekh named on Forbes' "30 Under 30" List (Hebrew)
- Board Member Dr. Jihad El-Sana named on Geektime's "40 Over 40" List (Hebrew)
- Board Member Dr. Sara Abu Kaf spoke on the future of Bedouin women in hi-tech at a panel at the 2018 Globes Financial Summit

Siraj – Advancing Hi-Tech in the Bedouin Community (Siraj NGO) strives to integrate the Bedouin society into Israel's hi-tech sector, in order to increase economic prosperity and decrease polarization between the Bedouin community and the general Israeli society.

We rely on donations. If you would like to donate to Siraj please contact
fahima.atawna@siraj-ngo.org

We encourage you to share this update with 5 friends who will be interested in strengthening and empowering the Bedouin community.