Siraj NGO 2019 Year-End Update
Growing Hi-tech Participation and Partnerships, Scaling Exposure
December 2019

To our friends and supporters,

In the second half of 2019, we continued to expand our efforts to expose young Bedouin people – from high schoolers through university graduates – to the Israeli hi-tech industry. We launched the second cohort of our On-the-Job Training program, significantly grew our high school programming, developed new partnerships with Bedouin decision makers and NGO's, and nurtured existing ones. We are glad to share these updates with you, and wish you a holiday season filled with joy, and a New Year of transformation.

With gratitude for your partnership,

The Siraj NGO team

Scaling our Exposure: By the Numbers

- 650 high school students experienced the hi-tech industry by visiting Siraj Technologies.
- 5 new graduates trained for employment in hi-tech through our OJT program's second cohort
- 300 university students attended meetups with leading tech executives from Dell and Apple.
- 16 Bedouin engineers, including 2 women, work at Siraj Technologies – doubling the team since 2018.

College and University Graduates

September marked the start of our second On-the-Job Training cohort with 5 participants – recent electrical engineering and computer science graduates of Sami Shamoon and Sapir Colleges. Over three and a half months, they amassed hands-on experience at a hi-tech company, with a focus on soft skills development.

Among this cohort's group is Ayman Alkarinawi, who holds a master's degree in software engineering from Sami Shamoon College, but has been working as a teacher since finishing his degree. Ayman first engaged with Siraj as a participant at the Negev Hackathon. He took interest and decided to take a risk and join the OJT program, so he can receive the training he needs to join the hi-tech industry.

Graduates of Siraj's first OJT cohort, and other Bedouin young people who are part of our growing network, are gaining employment in the hi-tech industry – both at Siraj Technologies and elsewhere. Hilin Alatawna secured her first hi-tech job at Intel in Kiryat Gat:

> *"To the Siraj team: I want to thank you for your support, encouragement, and care. Thanks to you I've found my first job. The job search can be a frustrating process, and I was comforted knowing I had someone to turn to and seek professional advice from. I'm very proud of Siraj, you are an inspiration to me and many other young people."*

High School Students

Following the success of the Negev Hackathon held in April, we hosted 600 high school students at Siraj Technologies' offices, to expose them firsthand to what a hi-tech workplace looks like. This represents significant growth in our activity with high schoolers, both in terms of the number of students, and in terms of the schools and communities we are working with. Students hail from recognized and unrecognized villages across the Negev, including Segev Shalom, Tel Sheva, and Abu Talul. For most, a visit to Siraj Technologies is their first time in a highly technical and professional environment.

Community Exposure

We work to nurture partnerships with NGO's, municipal leaders, and community decision makers – to expose them to the hi-tech industry and the opportunity it can provide. In October we hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting with Dr. Ami Applebaum, Chairman of the Israeli Innovation Authority (pictured here). Dr. Applebaum met with Bedouin community and business leaders and academics, to learn about the Innovation Authority's services, hoping to spark interest in innovative business initiatives.

We also held additional community tech meetups, hosting Maya Hofman Levy, Beer Sheva Site Leader for Dell EMC's Israel R&D Site, who spoke with 25 Bedouin students from Ben Gurion University and Sami Shamoon College of Engineering in July. In October, Rashed Mahameed, a senior engineer and researcher at Apple, owner of over 10 patents, who spoke with 100 college and high school students about life at Apple. Also in October we hosted Aisha Bowe, a former NASA Aerospace Engineer and Founder and CEO of STEMBoard, who inspired over 100 Bedouin high school students with her career story.

Siraj in the News

- Musawa Channel, November 6, 2019, "Negev: Siraj hosts meeting bringing together young people with hi-tech experts": coverage of our October meetup with Apple executive (in Arabic).
- Al Arab, November 1, 2019, "Beer Sheva: American astronaut Aisha Bowe motivates Arab students to succeed": coverage of October meeting with Aisha Bowe (in Arabic).

> **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.
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> If you would like to support 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.
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