

# Jordan National Competitiveness Report Delivered to Prime Minister

First national competitiveness report of the Arab world critical to the continued development of Jordan and the region

AMMAN, Jordan – Representatives of the Jordanian government, the private sector and international organizations including the U.S. Agency for International Development, gathered today at the Four Seasons Hotel to inaugurate the region's first National Competitiveness Observatory, an agency within the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation that will monitor the state of Jordan's competitiveness and assess the country's macro- and microeconomic performance year to year.



The Jordan National Competitiveness Report 2007 was released Monday, 17 December 2007 at a conference organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The ceremony, held by the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suhair Al-Ali and attended by Prime Minister Nader Dahabi, heralded the completion of the Observatory's first National Competitiveness Report. Dahabi called the National Competitiveness Observatory "a step forward" towards realizing the country's goal of becoming a modern, knowledge-based economy.

Minister Al-Ali was confident about Jordan's future and said there is real opportunity for the country over the next five years. She called the Observatory an "important tool for increasing the competitiveness of both the public and private sectors," according to the Jordan Times.

The Observatory is a joint-effort between the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, private-sector stakeholders and J.E. Austin Associates to institutionalize a system of continuous review and analysis of Jordan's economy and the country's competitiveness. It will provide policymakers and businesses with a comprehensive evaluation of Jordanian industries and the business environment to develop strategies of focused intervention that will have the greatest impact on the Jordanian economy.

As the global leader in competitiveness precepts and methodologies, J.E. Austin was instrumental in the design and development of the Observatory's operating model. The U.S.-based consulting firm also helped benchmark Jordanian firms domestically, regionally and globally by training new staff in cutting-edge research techniques and statistical data gathering. All told, the Observatory surveyed more than 200 industry leaders, business managers and CEOs and analyzed their competitive strengths and weaknesses.

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Contact:  
Media Relations  
J.E. Austin Associates, Inc.  
2101 Wilson Blvd, Suite 1100  
Arlington, Virginia 22201 USA  
Tel. +1.703.841.9841 ext. 19  
Fax. +1.703.841.9847  
Web. [www.jeaustin.com](http://www.jeaustin.com)

For more information:  
<http://www.jnco.gov.jo/>

The Observatory is an organic outgrowth of the Jordan National Competitiveness Team, established in 1997 to develop a sustainable productivity enhancement system and improve the competitive advantage of the domestic economy. With the assistance of J.E. Austin Associates and the larger donor community, the JNCT intensified and focused its efforts over the last ten years to upgrade the national business environment by forging cooperative alliances between and among private sector stakeholders and the Government of Jordan.