



Invitation to PALESTINIAN INNOVATORS AND CHANGE MAKERS!

RELEASE YOUR CREATIVITY AND INNOVATE WITH US!

Are you an innovator, developer, university student, entrepreneur, in the business field, or a digital expert who is interested in solving water challenges facing Palestine? Are you ready to collaborate, create and come up with innovative solutions to key water challenges facing our beloved Country?

The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) in partnership with partnership with Netherlands Representative Office, Norwegian Representative Office in Palestine, the World Bank and the engagement of the Youth Committee of the Water Sector will be celebrating the 2019 World Water Day with the first Water Innovation Challenge in Palestine.

This is your opportunity to join us and come up with great solutions that serve your country, enhance your knowledge and experience, and the chance to win cash prizes and incubation support.

We know all of you are winners but we will select the best three solutions presented.

- **The first prize will be \$3000 in cash**
- **The second prize will be \$2,500 in cash**
- **The third prize will be \$2,000 in cash**

Also, you will be incubated for three months at the best Incubators in Palestine. You will receive all the support needed to develop your product, and you will be coached and mentored by the best. If you are committed and have finalized developing your product and business plan, we will connect you with potential local and international investors.

Background on the Water Sector

Palestine faces significant issues in the water and sanitation sector including shortfalls in water supply and access to resources significantly exacerbated by Israeli imposed policies and actions. The PWA has been leading the Water Sector aiming to establish an effective regulatory framework and develop sustainable institutions that are capable and motivated to provide efficient and equitable services to the entire population. However, with population of approximately 4.8 million growing at an average annual rate of 2.8 percent, the supply gap for domestic, irrigation and other uses is projected to dramatically increase unless supply sources are expanded, effective service and delivery systems are enhanced, efficient irrigation technologies are adopted, pollution is reduced, water salinity particularly in Gaza is dealt with, wastewater treatment and reuse systems are extended, waste and brackish water treatment appropriate technologies developed and demand is well managed. Water security requires that water resources are well managed, and that water service providers are capable and motivated to provide sustainable, efficient, and equitable services.

What Will Happen at the Water Innovation Challenge?

The aim of the Water Innovation Challenge is to come up with solutions (not only technological) to solve the defined water and sanitation related challenges. The innovation challenge will be an intensive marathon competition of brainstorming on effective solutions to identified challenges that

draws together the talent and creativity of business innovators, engineers, software developers and designers.

The competition will be between teams of 4-6 members with multiple skills sets and background to contribute to the comprehensive product development process. You can form and register as a team or as an individual participant and you will be incorporated into a team prior to the competition based on your skills and challenge areas of interest.

The aim of the Water Innovation Challenge:

- To raise the visibility of technology as an enabler and catalyst in solving water and sanitation challenges;
- To familiarize civil society and the tech industry with the water sector issues to promote collaboration between innovators and all relevant actors in the water and sanitation sector towards providing best services for local communities;
- To develop new applications to help improve service delivery in the water and sanitation sector;
- To create links between innovators, end-users of the products/applications and investors and/or donors;
- To enhance youth awareness of the critical issues facing the water sector and promote their engagement in its development.

The solutions we seek for this competition:

1. Creative Education and Awareness Raising Tools
2. Water Use Smart Control Systems
3. Easier Connections, Billing and Collection
4. Pumping Stations Monitoring Systems
5. Utilities-Customers Communication Systems Including Complaints' and Responses
6. Vulnerable Areas Water/Sanitation Solutions
7. Water Loss Management
8. Water Quality Management
9. Wildcard (developing any relevant water sector and irrigation related technologies)

How your solutions will be judged

You and your team will be asked to present a demo of your prototype and a pitch deck that clearly demonstrates the applicability and vision of your product to a panel of judges. Judges will be scoring you based on the following criteria categories:

➤ Impact

- How big of an impact will your solution make on the challenge area you addressed?
- How scalable is your solution?

➤ Product innovation and applicability

- How innovative is your idea?
- How applicable is your idea?
- If there are similar solutions in the market, did you convincingly differentiate your solution and demonstrate your product's unique added value?
- Did you do your homework well to understand the challenges and think through the solutions?

➤ **Sustainability**

- Did you spend some time thinking about the business model?
- How does the idea finance itself and what's the roadmap?

➤ **Presentation**

- How well did you communicate your idea/product to the audience?
- How well did you respond to questions from the judging panel?

➤ **Supportive of sector governance**

- Is the solution compliant with the regulatory environment?
- Is the solution supportive of key sector targets?

Registration

For registration please fill the form by visiting

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-innovation-challenge-tickets-54061589670>

Deadline for registration is 15th March 2019.

Enquires

For further enquires please send to innovation@pwa.ps

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