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Camel-related industries- traditional resources as a key to future of Arab employment

How traditional industries can help to overcome the lack of employment for Arab youth in the region

The Middle Eastern region is facing a lot of challenges for development, yet one of the most pressing issues is the high unemployment amongst Arab youth.

According to latest numbers release by the Arab Labour Organization AOL, Arab states have nearly 20 million jobless people. With an average jobless quota of 16% unemployment rate is one of the highest in the world. Apart from political instability in some countries and a lack of labor-market oriented education, also limited inter-Arab investments are stated as reasons for this alarming development.

While investments in new businesses and a more market-focused education will have a positive impact on the development of the unemployment rate, another opportunity complementing those efforts might be the re-discovery of traditional potential of the region. One example is the growth camel-related industries such as camel milk production in the UAE.

The Emirates Industry for Camel Milk & Products (EICMP) is based on the Bedouin traditional lifestyle, using camel milk as part of their staple diet, yet has managed to reach a highly sophisticated industrial level. EICMP follows international standards and regulations such as ISO 22000 and HACCP. Recently the company was listed as first camel milk producer to export camel milk products to the EU and to Malaysia; a strong booster to the development of a strong sustainable industry.

A growing industry also always implicates job opportunities. Commenting on the development Mr. Mutasher Al Badry, Deputy GM of EICMP and speaker at the Annual Conference of the Arab Thought Foundation, said: "With more than 10 million camels in the region, we at EICMP see the importance to develop this widely un-used resource. Camel-related industries are not only an original and traditional venture but also offer a tremendous potential for the Arab labor market.



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“The fact that industries dealing with camels, may it be for production of meat or milk, are deeply rooted in local tradition and lifestyle, makes job opportunities more sustainable in the future. We are tapping into a truly local resource,” he continued.

EICMP is a pioneer in its field and is continuously conducting research to improve the expertise in camel milk production. From breeding, camel milk production and product development to research related to camels and the discovery of potential use of camel milk, as the forerunner in the field of camel milk production EICMP is paving the way for others.

Explaining the implication of a growing industry on the regional labor market, Al Badry said: “At EICMP we believe in the potential to develop a strong camel milk industry in the region and by this, to offer youth wide field of employment. Therefore we are very active in our outreach to the young people in the UAE by offering school orientations and research cooperation with various universities. In the long run we hope to excite young Arabs for camel-related roles and to encourage them to seek a career in this alternative field of employment.”



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