H.O.P.E. Project

Holistic Opportunities for Palestinian Engagement

Project Team: Aaron Aitken, Pinar Cil, and Miguel Pommainville-Cleroux
Executive Summary

The HOPE Project seeks to:

(1) Working through a Canadian post-secondary institution, establish a new engineering facility at the Palestine Technical University (PTU). The goal is to facilitate access to post-secondary education, in order to target persistently high youth unemployment ($12 million);

(2) Through the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), offer scholarships to Palestinian, Israeli, and Canadian students to attend PTU. In addition, will fund symposiums in order to facilitate inter-communal integration ($8 million).
Objective

- Target youth unemployment;
- Create associational linkages through joint-educational initiatives and facilities;
- Create a forum for Canadian-Israeli-Palestinian dialogue;
- In turn, reduce overall settler-native violence in the local area by ensuring local level stability despite potential national level tensions.
Areas of Focus and Rationale

- Unemployment is high in the West Bank at 22.6%;
- Address youth low labour participation (44%);
- Facilitate future forum for discussions and workshops to ease tensions;
- Will foster intellectual courage in an open environment among youth and decision-makers;
- Cultivate a collaborative civic engagement among student body.
Budget

- PROJECTED TOTAL COST:
  - $20,000,000.00 (CND)

- 12,000,000.00 (CND)
  - Grant to selected Canadian higher education institution (for the construction of project), allocated by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development (DFATD);
  - This grant will help fund the construction of an engineering lab facility.

- 8,000,000.00 (CND)
  - Administered by the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE);
  - Provide services for members and learners including international exchanges, scholarships, training, internships, and technical assistance.
Beneficiaries / Stakeholders

- Palestine Technical University - Kadoorie
  - Sole governmental university in Palestine;
  - Historical symbolism between Palestinian and Israeli relations (Jewish philanthropist - J.S. Kadoorie);
  - Aspires to occupy an elevated status among the local, regional, and international universities, especially in Engineering.

- Local Palestinian/Israeli Population
  - Increased access to skill-based training and employment opportunities, thereby giving an equal footing to Palestinian administered institutions.

- Canada (government)
  - Benefit from international recognition and engagement in the region.

- Canadian Post-Secondary Institution
  - Increased international outreach and recognition.
Project Evaluation

- Track graduation rates and scholarships holders;
- Track applications to scholarships;
- Rate of Canadian-Israeli enrollment;
- Assess the national reputation and ranking of the establishment;
- Track job-creation initiatives;
- Once facility is in operation, track events held in new conference venue (prospect of holding future symposiums that promote professional integration between Israelis and Palestinians).
Preconditions

- Stable security environment;
- Cooperation from selected universities (as well as the assurance of sound financial and accounting practices);
- Permission and cooperation of Israeli and Palestinian state/regional/local governments.
Thank You