

Technopreneurship: Creating Technology Enabled Startups And Ecosystem *(for officials from Kurdistan)*

Proposed Date: 8th January 2025 to 21st January 2025

Rationale:

Technopreneurship is derived from 'Technology' and 'Entrepreneurship'. In other words, it is entrepreneurship in a technology-intensive context. It is a process of merging technology prowess and entrepreneurial talent and skills. This process of Technopreneurship promotes and enables startups, which in turn improves the socio-economic picture of a particular region.

A startup is a young budding company that is just beginning to develop. Startups are usually small and initially financed and operated by a handful of founders or one individual. These companies offer a product or service that is not currently being offered elsewhere in the market, or that the founders believe is being offered in an inferior manner. Startups have a far-reaching ripple effect on the socio-economic fabric of the demography in which they operate. Infosys has impacted Bangalore and Alibaba has changed Hangzhou. What Google has done to Mountain View and how Microsoft transformed Redmond are case studies in themselves. When these startups grew, they directly impacted growth of their cities as well. Employment opportunities for youth increased and new employment patterns came into picture. Demand and employment opportunities for engineers saw a steep rise. Local youth had new opportunities to pursue, and experienced talent started moving to these cities in pursuit of a challenging and high-growth career. Similarly, Start-Up Chile has proven to be a driving force in putting Chile on the world's entrepreneurial map, including Israel, Africa and others in the chain. Technopreneur is the person who terminates the existing economic order by introducing new products and services, by creating new forms of organizations and by exploiting new raw materials. It is someone who perceives an opportunity and creates an organization to pursue it.

Kurdistan, particularly the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), stands at a critical juncture in its socio-economic development. With its rich natural resources, burgeoning population, and unique cultural heritage, the region has significant potential for growth and modernization. However, to fully harness this potential, there is an urgent need to foster innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and technological advancement. A specialized technopreneurship course for Kurdistan officials can play a pivotal role in driving this transformation.

Objectives:

The Technopreneurship course will provide the participants with an introduction to the technology venture creation and management through a mix of experiential learning, skill building and most importantly, mind-set shift. This fast-paced programme follows a

structure that covers the major elements of start-up activity, focusing on key challenges faced in starting a technology venture.

Target Group:

Policy-makers, Business Owners, Managers, Executives and Working Professionals from any of following organizations from Kurdistan can participate:

- Government Institutions & Government Officials
- Research & Development professionals
- Business and Industrial professionals
- Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Business Development Organizations

Course Content:

Module 1: Technology Entrepreneurship and Technopreneurial processes

Module 2: Technopreneurship to solve rural/urban issues

Module 3: Technology Ventures & Commercialization (Patents, Licensing, Legal services)

Module 4: New Venture Creation and Management

Module 5: Product Development & Entrepreneurial Marketing

Module 6: Development of Startup Ecosystem

Module 7: Ecosystem enablers: Mentors, Investors, Incubators, Funding agencies, Government, Nodal Institutions, R&D Institutions

Module 8: Policy Frameworks

Benefits To Participants:

- Understand Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Understand technology transfer and expansion opportunities with a collaborative approach
- Develop the process of creating a Startup ecosystem
- Ability to commercialize new products, technologies, processes, and arrangements
- The technopreneurship course for Kurdistan officials represents a strategic initiative to drive innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development in the region. By equipping officials with the necessary knowledge and skills, Kurdistan can harness the potential of its human and natural resources to build a resilient and diversified economy.