



Abdulmuttalib (Talib) Hashim
Business: The UAE Catalysts Project

‘The UAE Catalysts’ is a project that is born out of Dubai and aims to incubate talent in the Arab world who will become ‘change agents’ by 2020. The project will achieve this through 3 connected and innovative approaches: Incubate Talent, Connect Talent with opportunities and Develop Talent.

The project aims to address the challenge of un-engaged and unemployed youth in the Arab world which has the highest unemployment average in the world. It will also address the gap between industry and youth who seek employment or are entrepreneurs running micro-businesses in the region.

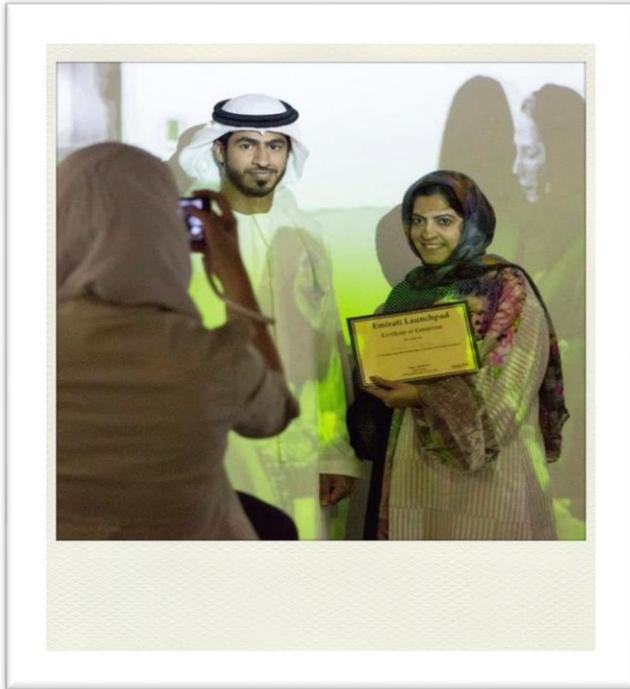
“The workshops were very interesting and thought provoking. The mentors were great and extremely helpful. Credit has to also be given to the Program Manager (Mia) who worked tirelessly in ensuring everything was going smoothly. I also think it would be a great addition if we could see more Emirati entrepreneurs who's businesses are in either growth stage or have established successful businesses attend as guest speakers during the program. To me the Emirati Launchpad had a profound effect, it encouraged me to finally refine and launch a concept that was on the shelf for the last 2 years and participate in the Launchpad's final competition which I'm proud to say was selected as one of the winners.”



Maryam Qayed **Business: Cultural Bus**

The problem my business is solving:
Most tourists leave UAE without having an authentic Emirati experience because of limited efforts to make the cultural element available. My business aims to introduce a cultural tourism in the UAE. I am starting from Dubai and eventually want to cover the gulf region.

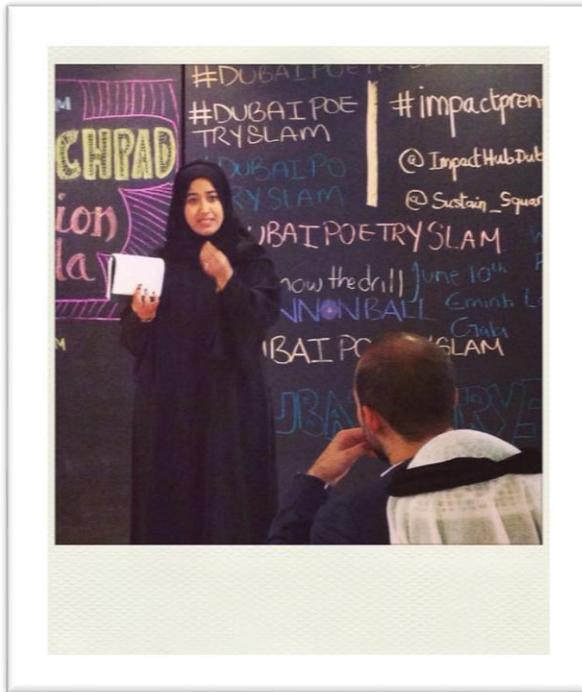
“Emirati Launchpad is extremely useful and highly recommended to those who dream of being entrepreneurs. I progressed a great deal within two months of the program. The program equipped me with practical mindset and tools to implement. It connected me to great mentors and entrepreneurs who were very knowledgeable and helpful as well improved my networking skills which enabled me to not just exchange business cards but engage and work together to take my business idea to the next level!”



Maryam Al Mazro
Business: Ethical Fashion Designing

The problem my business is solving:
There are no initiatives to support fashion designers in the UAE and give them the knowledge, exposure, workshop space and business advise to create profitable business ventures.

“The Emirati Launchpad had great positive energy, everyone is keen to help you grow your business. The mentors and the team are highly inspirational and the speakers gave me lots of knowledge and insights. The facilitators were phenomenal in helping me better able to pitch and I gained vast knowledge from them.”



Eman Al Madani **Business: Sustainable Henna**

The problem my business is solving:
Petroleum products are being added to henna to improve the color and causes skin diseases like eczema and dermatitis. I'm creating a much healthier, environmentally friendly and sustainable henna.

"The program was very beneficial for me. It helped me develop my business plan and initiate contact with the right people for my business. The mentors were very supportive and gave me valuable insights on how I could approach the concept. I've attended other workshops before but none of them have been as effective as Emirati Launchpad"



Ahmad Suwaidan
Business: Trakeeb (3D printing)

The problem my business is solving:
I'm trying to provide a cheap alternative to conventional architectural model building by using 3D printing.

'The program helped me gain different perspectives of how to run businesses and immensely helped me in understanding how to run my own business. Since completing the program, I've narrowed down my idea, given the business a name and acquired my business license.'



Fatma Al Mulla

Business: FMM by Fatma AlMulla

There is a lack of designers promoting Emirati culture and history with our own modern fresh insights. I am an Emirati designer who believes this should change.

“I think the Emirati Launchpad is a great initiative. Whilst I already have a a brand, FMM by Fatma al Mulla, the program helped me think about what vision I have for my brand, moving forwards what is the culture I want to create and how to plan my business on a business model canvas. I found how to get customer feedback and validation for new products and become more socially aware in my business.”



Rasha Dahrouj

Business: Deli Bite

The problem my business is trying to solve: I saw a lack of quality, home delivered catering services providing savory and sweet party food for special occasions and corporate events. My business focuses on Emirati recipes mixed with my mothers recipes from Latin America.

“The Launchpad is a great initiative. I got to meet other SME members through the program. I had been an SME member for one year back then and had not had the opportunity to meet with other members. There was a lot to learn. I had the opportunity to meet the mentors and network with other hubsters which gave me a lot of confidence - when you see that you are not alone and every entrepreneur has fears, doubts and a lot of challenges, it helps your self motivation.”



Mohammed Talab, Abdulaziz Al Nuami, Ali Al Nuami, Saqib Awan
Business: Suplify

We are trying to connect the huge gap we believe exists between service providers and client's in the UAE and the region. This will take place by setting up an online platform that will simply generate as many leads as possible to both service providers and end users.

“The program is an amazing experience for those who are still at very early stage of idea generation and development. Its also a good experience for those who are in stages like us because it allows you to think out of the box, connect with valuable individuals, and get instant feedback on your work. Networking is what we felt was useful the most about our experience in the Launchpad. But guidance was also something we benefited from a lot.”