

## Intel's iLab

In September 2002, coinciding with the Jordan ICT Forum 2002 and the third review of the REACH Initiative, Intel's iLab was officially launched by Dr. Craig Barrett - CEO of Intel Corporation at the University Of Jordan's King Abdullah II School Of Information Technology. This was achieved after months of much appreciated hard work and lobbying by all concerned in presenting the case and eventually convincing Intel to set up an iLab at the University.

As one of only a handful of similar iLabs sponsored by Intel around the world, it promotes the concept of "... converting ideas and proposals into real world applications, which will consequently have a great impact on the ICT industry in Jordan....help train students and staff....test and evaluate new entrepreneurial business models, and their technical realization with the assistance of Internet technologies and high-tech solutions".

For us in Jordan, this concept promised to be the first real test case for cooperation between the private sector represented by intaj and public sector represented by the University Of Jordan. Stakeholders' obligations and responsibilities were clearly defined and an implementation mechanism in the form of establishing a number of joint public/private sector committees was agreed and set in place. A Steering Committee was mandated with studying research proposals and to decide whether they can be carried-out at the center in addition to appointing a supervisor for the Lab. A Technical Committee was supposed to study proposals approved by the Steering Committee, form a research group and develop a time table for each project and ensure its implementation.

Unfortunately, after fifteen months of its launch, not a single project, viable or otherwise, has emerged from iLab to date. It is not even clear how the considerable array of high tech equipment installed at the Lab is currently being utilized, if at all.

It seems that our iLab was somehow transformed into a *my*Lab. The question is to try and understand the incomprehensible logic behind achieving such a formidable transformation and why it was allowed to proceed unchecked in the first place.

I wonder what Intel has to say about this.