THE PASSION OF GIVING BACK
LebNet Fact Sheet

- Lebanese American High Tech professional Society
- 350+ members
- Executives, Entrepreneurs, Researchers, VC fund Managers, & Engineers
- 15+ years old
- 501 (c) 3 US based organization
- Physical meetings focused in Silicon Valley, CA
Lebnet Governance

BOARD of Directors
George (Abdo) Kadifa
Elie Habib
Edgar Masri
Khaled Nasr
Eddy Tabet
George Skaff
Fares Mubarak
Najib-Khoury Haddad
George Akiki
Ford Tamer (Board Observer)

OFFICERS
George Akiki (President)
Fares Mubarak (Treasurer)
Najib-Khoury Haddad (Secretary)

Executive Director
Michelle El-Khoury Tager

General Counsel
Haitham Ballout
Connect
Lebanon

Network
members

Nurture
next generation

next
 generation
Connect
Lebanon

- Job creation & Economic development
- Reversing the brain drain and activating brain circulation
- Technology: leveling the playing field
- Help create success stories and role models
Why Connect?

• The Middle East is at an inflection point where innovation and technology will play a major part in the development of large sectors and markets in the region.

• Lebanon needs to compete for its fair share. Technology offers a somewhat leveling field for entrepreneurs and startups to achieve that goal.

• There is a dire need for Silicon Valley type expertise to provide a differentiated advantage to the Lebanese startups in unlocking commercial value.

• Lebnet, collectively through its membership, possesses most of the skills, experience, and knowledge that fill the gaps between Lebanese companies and their commercial aspirations.

• Lebnet members are anxious to give back to Lebanon by sharing their experiences when proven to be beneficial and in an efficient manner.
Programs in Flight

- Mentorship
- US based accelerator program (TBA)
- US based Summer internships (TBA)
- Networking events in the US with entrepreneur guests from Lebanon
- Representation on boards of Lebanese startups and on Investment Committees of Lebanon based VC funds and Accelerators
What works

- Play to our strength (technology)
- Focus our efforts
- Fund only when commercially viable
- Help those who help themselves

What doesn’t work

- Start conversation with funding opportunity
- Entrepreneur’s sense of entitlement
- Fear of failing
- Relying on Diaspora volunteering only efforts: need structure
Q & A