



Beit Jala Municipality

Newsletter September- October 2018

Projects, activities and events

September 2018

➤ Projects :

- In 5-9-2018, Beit Jala Municipality presented by its mayor Mr. Nicola Khamis and Mrs. Samia Zeit, the director of the Engineering Department in the Municipality and Mr. Walid Khateeb, the financial manager of the municipality signed a memorandum of understanding for building up “**Ruwad Center**” with Bethlehem University/ Institute for Community Partnership presented by its Vice Chancellor Br. Peter Bray and Vice President for Finance, Mr. Youil Anastas and the Director of the Institute for Community Partnership, Mr. Mousa Rabadi. The main aim of this project is to develop and reinforce the entrepreneur and creative initiatives for youth in Beit Jala city.





Beit Jala Municipality represented by its mayor Mr. Nicola Khamis, , signed a memorandum of understanding in the Municipality of Beit Jala on Wednesday 26-9-2018 for the project **"Food Security and Livelihoods on the Use of Environmental Farming Systems and Conservation of Water Resources in Al-Makhrur / Beit Jala"** represented by its Director General Sister Brigitte Tai And partner institutions The St.-Yves Foundation is represented by its Director-General, Mr. Rafol Roufa, and the Bethlehem Farmers' Association, represented by its President Mr. Ibrahim Manasra and the Beit Jala Farmers Association, represented by its President, Mr. Bashir Alsous. The agreement provides for the role of each partner institution and the necessity of enhancing cooperation between them to implement the project **"Food Security and Livelihoods on the Use of Environmental Farming Systems and Conservation of Water Resources in Al-Maharur / Beit Jala"**, which includes the use of environmental farming methods Agricultural irrigation networks on an estimated area of 18 dunums.

It is worth mentioning that this project is the first of its kind at the governorate level and the largest at the national level. This project is in line with the strategy of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture and partner institutions. The project is being implemented with the support of Zaragoza Municipality in Spain and Caritas Spain. The agreement has already been signed with partner institutions, including an explanation of the expected results of this project.

Sister Brigitte Tay stressed the necessity of implementing this project during 2018-2019 because it is important to the residents of Beit Jala, which is part of a series of projects carried out in the same area.



❖ German- Palestinian Cultural days

Beit Jala Municipality represented by its deputy mayor, Mrs. Luba Zaidan, the council member, Mrs. Sawsan Istephan and the general director of the municipality, Mr. Nadim Siman participated in the German- Palestinian Cultural Days in Bergisch Gladbach/ Germany between the 6th to 10th of September upon a formal invitation from Bergisch Gladbach invitation. This cultural exchange event strengthens the twin relationship, between the two cities, that was built up in 2011. Mrs. Luba Zaidan stresses the importance of the continuity of this twin relationship because it has positive effects on the German and Palestinian people



Beit Jala International Festival for Peace 2018

“Beit Jala, Home for all”

Palestinians from all over Palestine stay alert for the timing of the festival, three days from 13th- 15th September in the municipality’s community centre, Arab Orthodox Club and Cremisan Monastery, because of its different cultural, recreational and artistic programs that target all categories of the community as well as cooperation between its institutions. Moreover, the core objectives of the festival are to enhance tourism in the area and revive the Palestinian cultural heritage.

The First day (13-9-2018): Culture and Heritage

- Workshops are going to be held at schools and Bethlehem Arab society for Rehabilitation in the morning.
- The Kick off march of the festival will begin from the city centre heading to the festival’s main venue, the community centre, as it is going to encompass the fruitful participation of different scout groups and local cultural institutions such as Baladi.





Artistic group performances such as Douban Band , Zajal show and the mentalist Mr. Basem Bandak .



Second day (14-9-2018): Family and Children

- ❖ Morning recreational activities for children at the municipal community centre such as: an Acrobat show by Pitesti Olympic Gym, Drawings and Arts activities by Ms. Wanda Handal, Interactive activities and games by Ms. Dorin Munayyer.



- ❖ In the afternoon, we celebrated the inauguration of Bergisch Gladbach Square in Bir Onah with the attendance of local formal characters and the German delegation from the cooperation association.



- ❖ Alternative music in Arab Orthodox Club for the youth.



Third day (15-9-2018)

The Inauguration of the Old City Trail “St. Nicolas Trail”

The inauguration of the Old City’s Trail that is very essential for promoting tourism in the area with the participation of Amwaj band, Baladi Band, and Aubervilliers “Frichti Concept” band



❖ Third Day (15-9-2018) : Cremisan Wine Festival

Beit Jala municipality finalized the activities of the festival in Cremisan wine festival and thanked all the delegations for their fruitful participation in the festival. Gifts and souvenirs were exchanged.



❖ Tremblay en France delegation Visit to Beit Jala Municipality

Mr. Nicola Khamis welcomed on 18th of September 2018, a delegation from Tremblay en France at Beit Jala Municipality, as he elaborated on the current political situation that our Palestinian people live and all the challenges that we face. Moreover, he stressed the importance of continuing the cooperative relationship between the two cities, Beit Jala and Tremblay en France in order to exchange experiences among both nations. The delegation was very glad of this visit to Beit Jala and their fruitful participation in the festival.



❖ Visit of Jena delegation from Germany to Beit Jala municipality

Beit Jala Municipality represented by its mayor Mr. Nicola Khamis welcomed a delegation from Jena/Germany on Friday, September 28, 2018. He stressed the need of the continuity of the harmonious relationship between the two municipalities for the benefit of the Palestinian and German people. Mr. Nicola Khamis pointed out to the reality of the city of Beit Jala and the challenges that it faces. During their visit to the municipality, they learned about the historical places in the region and its annual cultural events.

In conclusion, Mr. Nicola Khamis thanked the delegation for their visit to the municipality and exchanged souvenirs.

Moreover, we arranged a tour for the delegation to the historical places at the city such as: St. Nicolas church, Virgin Mary church and the Annunciation Church.



October 2018

Awareness campaign with Latin Patriarchate school

- ❖ Beit Jala Municipality in cooperation with Latin Patriarchate School in Beit Jala (9 and 10 grades) organized a volunteering campaign on Tuesday 2-10-2018 for cleaning the streets in several locations in the city. The main aim of the campaign is to maintain the city clean.



❖ The visit of the municipality to Bethlehem Directorate

A delegation from Beit Jala Municipality and its council members and institutions visited Bethlehem Directorate on Monday 8-10-2018 to congratulate for Mr. Kamel Hamid on his appointment as Governor of Bethlehem Governorate. His Excellency Mr. Kamel Hamid welcomed the delegation and praised the achievements of the Municipality of Beit Jala.

Mr. Nicola Khamis stressed the importance of cooperation and partnership between the governorate and the municipality in various fields.



❖ The visit of Bergisch Gladbach delegation to Beit Jala

Beit Jala Municipality represented by its mayor Mr. Nicola Khamis welcomed a delegation from the Bergisch Gladbach/ Germany on Tuesday 16-10-2018. Mr. Nicola Khamis welcomed the attendees and stressed the importance of the harmonious relationship between the two municipalities for the benefit of the Palestinian and German people. He pointed out to the reality of the city of Beit Jala and the challenges it faces. During their visit to the municipality, the German delegation learned about the institutions and archaeological sites in the region and its annual cultural events.

In conclusion, Mr. Nicola Khamis thanked the delegation for their visit to the municipality and exchanged souvenirs.

