

Lama Sha'sha'a Abu Dahab

**Cofounder & Chairperson,
IRA International Robotics Academy**

JORDAN



“I discovered that my passion is opening channels to children and motivate them. I am focused on using technology to create students with growth mindsets”



The IRA-International Robotics Academy is a private institution that specializes in Robotics & STEM Education established in 2014. Working in close partnership with various international bodies one of which is Domabotics-Australia one of the leading experts in this field. The academy engages educational specialists and engineers develop hands-on, interactive STEM modules in Robotics, the Life-Sciences, Programming, Design, and much more. The knowledge from these courses are transferred to students, ages 6 - 16, either during school as part of a curriculum, after school as part of an extra-curricular activity, or in special events as seminars and workshops. The IRA community outreach includes facilitating job search for local engineers, offering internships, establishing a local innovation and entrepreneurship hub and supporting sports teams as well as scientific and technology events.

The Academy teaches to students ages 6-16. In 2018, it had 4300 students as well as 13 staff and 5 advisers. Its curriculum includes robotics and is based on STEM education system: teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses. IRA's curriculum is dynamic in various ways: the modules are customized to school needs and students acceleration. Furthermore, technology platforms IRA uses are constantly developing to ensure cutting-edge technology is available to the students.

Collaborative learning takes place in groups and includes courses on critical thinking and communication. Students are graded not only on their academic knowledge but also on their problem-solving process. Since inception, the school has educated more than 8,000 students, who have presented their ideas and solutions to more than 3,000 scientists and entrepreneurs in USA, Europe and Japan. Projects included self-cleaning solar panels, smart irrigation systems, reducing electronic waste and smart pipes to locate leakage. IRA revenues grew in 2017 by 70% compared to 2016 "I cofounded IRA International Robotics Academy two years after I took the Empretec Training Workshop. When I came to Empretec an idea of a project was in my mind to find out later that it is not a solution that people

need. I discovered that my passion is opening channels to children and motivate them and this how IRA came to life after two years of observing and studying children's pattern of learning and what keeps them engaged and motivated to feed their curiosity.", says Lama.

As an international organization, the Academy is committed to constantly improving the educational process in the MENA region through close partnerships with public sector & private schools, informational seminars, training programs, ad-hoc scholastic STEM curricula, as well as extra-curricular activities.

IRA-International Robotics Academy received an invitation to join the Jordanian delegation that participated in the Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2016 held at Stanford University in Silicon Valley. IRA-International Robotics Academy is also working closely with & "Startup With Purpose" a Non-for-profit Organization founded by UC Berkeley professors and students. Beginning of 2018, it held the first programme in Kings Academy. IRA has been endorsed as an educational institution that teaches the creation of technology and inspires innovation among schools. IRA's business plan is to expand in UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait to reach 40,000 students by 2020. IRA is currently starting collaboration with new partners and reputable educational institutions to expand in these new markets. "I was first inspired by my children's needs and decided to turn their challenges into a journey to create positive change", concludes Lama.



*Mamdouh As-sarairah St, Bldg. 88, 1st Floor
P.O.Box 911821, Amman 11191 Jordan*

Tel: + 962 6 5811216 - Mobile: + 962 795877988

www.ira.edu.jo

