

## Ayam el Ouloum Exhibition FINAL REPORT

### Narrative Summary

IBSAR- in collaboration with Assabil Network for Public Libraries and CCECS, have participated in this year's Ayam Al Ouloum (Days of Science) exhibition taking place at the Beirut Hippodrome between 14 and 17 of October, 2009 from 3:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. The theme for our participation this year was **Khalik Baladi; Let's Go Native**, and all the activities (games, experiments crafts and stories) revolved around this theme.

Ayam Al Ouloum is organized by the Ministry of Culture, with the participation of Geneva and Beirut municipalities, and the embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon. The event is designed to encourage academic and research institutes, scientific research laboratories, individual scientists, industries, companies, students, independent individuals, and non-governmental organizations to consider organizing and implementing any of a wide variety of activities that could bring science closer to a wider audience.

IBSAR and ASSABIL are contributing with a series of unique games and experiments aiming at educating children on the environment, biodiversity and the overall importance of science.



### **Organizers and exhibition in general:**

The organizing committee comprising of **Malek El Khoury, Najwa Basil and Rindalla Hawchar** and the **Architect Joe**, coordinated with us since May 2009 to fill in an application form for the exhibition stating the theme and the activities we intend to exhibit at our stand and the facilities needed for the stand.

### **IBSAR Science Days Team:**

The organizing team for the Ayam el Ouloum was comprising of **Nayla Abu Ezzedine** as coordinator of the project **Julia Wardeh** as assistant and games developer and **Samer Toutoungy** as the developer of the experiments in addition to volunteers maya and

### **Collaborators:**

1. **Assabil Network of public libraries:** our primary collaborators were Assabil which we have agreed to participate together in a common stand at the exhibition after the success of our first collaboration in the public libraries session in spring. Assabil introduced **traditional riddles and proverbs** revolving around the theme and introduced a **board game on the benefits of native medicinal herbs**. In addition the assabil were exhibiting their **mobile public library Kotobus**, children with their parents were visiting the bus with and reading stories around the theme proposed.
2. **CCECS:** the center for civic engagement and community service contacted and organised the schedule for the volunteers to participate in the event and run the activities at the booth. The center provided food and transportation for volunteers on 2 shifts per day and helped organise a workshops to introduce the activities and ibsar to the volunteers. In addition to handling media correspondents with the information office at AUB and Outlook.
3. **Hakawati:** Ahmad el 3aideh had a one hour stage performance for 2 days where he presented a short play using a character by the name of Niss Nsess around the theme. In his presentation he aimed at involving the crowd and asking them questions testing their knowledge in biodiversity.

### **Workshop for volunteers:**

A workshop for volunteers was prepared on October 5th by IBSAR and ASSABIL to introduce both organizations and the exhibition in general to the volunteers then the activities were introduced one by one starting with the games and then the riddles then the experiments.

### **Activities proposed:**

The educational tools that Biokids is using to promote its cause are:

1. **Educational games:** the Biokids team has designed 5 educational games revolving around the theme of native biodiversity to be played one on each booth: A memory card games of native species and another 7 family game cards of native species. An interactive board games on native aromatic herbs, and another board game on matching the fruit to its native tree, and finally a game on tree signs: attributing characteristics to each tree according to the birthday of the chosen player.
2. **Educational experiments:** a set of 4-5 experiments revolving around themes that promote local natural heritage originally initiated and developed by students at AUB and then adapted into experiments that could be performed in classroom laboratories. The participants will learn as we perform the experiments how to make safe non-toxic paints; how to make papers from banana leaves and how to measure nicotine in narguileh and cigarettes.
3. **Educational Theatrical acts:** Story-telling has proved to be one of the most effective educational tools that are recently being used internationally to promote different topics. Ibsar will be preparing a stage act around the themes of biodiversity conservation with a talented story-teller. The stage in the exhibition will be reserved for an hour each day for a 'Hakawati' or a story-teller to conduct a stage performance for kids of ages 7-13 reflecting on the depicted themes. The act will be preceded with educational stop motion animation produced and developed by graphic design students from AUB.
4. **Story Reading sessions:** book reading sessions in a mobile public library 'Kotobus' will be performed to children of ages 7-13 and a book exhibition on Nature themes will be held.

