1. "I love being from the Third World because it represents such a marvellous challenge - that of making a transition to a market-based capitalist system that respects people's desires and beliefs" (De Soto, 2000). Clearly Professor de Soto has not been living in Palestine over the last 35 years.

2. If ever the sentence "History matters" had any significance, it would be in Palestine.

3. "The durability of buildings built in stone helps us recover information to know about what man has conceived during his existence and... as a consequence, evaluate his personal development and civilization. Some of the oldest known settlements, dating back to Jericho in Jordan and the eighth millennium B.C., had stone foundations... structures representing an intermediate stage between cave dwellings and villages. Raw stone walls were the first and most natural vision of the equilibrium between man and Nature, ingeniously collaborating for the growth of what is perhaps man's most important work of art: the city." (Giovanne Tristão Sa, a Brazilian architect). If only stones could talk...

4. The specialisation of Palestinian, Jordanian, Turkish and Italian Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) in natural stone production illustrates that economics is indeed an old science.

5. "A fundamental shift in the economics of information is under way-a shift that is less about any specific new technology than about the fact that a new behaviour is reaching critical mass." (Evan's and Wurster, 1997). The widespread use of e-business methods in the Jordanian natural stone industry, illustrates that (business) economics has now, with the advent of ICT, become a new science.

6. To paraphrase De Soto (as quoted above under 1) SMEs in the Third World represent "a marvellous challenge - that of making a transition to a market-based capitalist system that respects people's desires and beliefs".

7. Jordanians should be aware that nations' competitiveness will ultimately evaporate if based on isolated industries and not on clusters of industries connected through vertical and horizontal relationships.

8. Given the enormous variety in Jordanian marbles in colour, Jordanian SMEs should focus on offering differential products for niche markets rather than focusing on delivering standard products with low prices.

9. The Jordanian government might believe that it has been successful in information technology promotion, there is still a strong need for information technology training, legal framework for information technology development and creating laws relating to the Internet use.

10. Carrying out a PhD in Palestine is only feasible thanks to ICT.