

# President's News Digest

## Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue **Prof. Yazeed Al-Sbou**, the **Dean of Research and Graduate Studies** will address the subject of "Scientific Research Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain"

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Mrs. Hessa Al Meraisi  
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## Inside this Issue

Message from the Editor

Message from a Colleague

Scientific Research Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Scenario Planning workshop

ASU's library participation in Al-Ayam 26th Cultural Festival

Applied Science University is Honored by HE Minister of Labour and Social Development

Interview with Alumnus

Presentation of CS Graduation Projects

Quote of the week

من روائع الشعر العربي

## Message from a Colleague

### Scientific Research Development in the Kingdom of Bahrain

In general, scientific research is part of a knowledge system that is affected by social, economic and educational conditions of every country.

In addition, scientific research is a joint process between academic institutions which is greatly influenced by the nature of the relationship between these institutions and the industrial community. In the Kingdom of Bahrain, the research policy is based on what stated in Economic Vision 2030 regarding the need for transition towards a knowledge economy and knowledge society. Based on this vision, the Higher Education Council (HEC) put the strategy for scientific research under the title "National Strategy for Scientific Research for the period 2014-2024." This strategy clarified the HEC awareness that Bahrain should adopt and implement an effective and successful strategy in developing scientific research to achieve a better future based on a productive economy consistent with the objectives of diversifying the sources of income contained in the Economic Vision 2030. Bahrain's strategy stresses the need to develop scientific research and integrate it into the Bahraini society and economy. This is achieved through increasing spending on scientific research, encouraging competitiveness and innovation, engaging the private sector and increasing universities cooperation with it.

In analyzing the current situation, there are some strengths that can be invested in developing scientific research in Bahrain which can be summarized in the followings: the leadership's awareness of the need to invest in scientific research, the need to persuade the private sector to direct the required resources toward scientific research, in addition to the qualified and highly trained human resources who have the desire to develop the Kingdom's research capabilities. On the other hand, there are some limitations that negatively affect the development of scientific research in Bahrain, such as funding, research infrastructure and international collaboration.



Professor Yazeed Al-Sbou  
Dean of Research and  
Graduates Studies

Yazeed Al-Sbou is the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and a Professor at the Computer Science Department at ASU. Professor Al-Sbou received his PhD in Computer Engineering from the UK in 2006. He has more than 13 years of teaching and research. His research interests include QoS, Image Processing, and Computer Networking. He has more than 30 research articles and two book chapters.

HEC has already started the formation of the scientific research system. In this context, the HEC seeks to achieve a set of goals to follow progress of this system:

- Securing of appropriate budget and data
- Establishing appropriate research infrastructures at the national level such as research centers, laboratories and equipment
- Strengthening the integration and cooperation of national higher education institutions with international institutions and with global scientific research networks
- Raising the level of cooperation between the private sector and industries with higher education institutions
- Strengthening research capabilities by raising the level of funding from the private sector to support research or research students, and strengthening links with the industrial community
- Raising awareness of the importance of scientific research and the need for innovation
- Focusing scientific research efforts in the service of Bahrain's national priorities.

The strategy identified three main sectors to focus on which are as follows:

- Financial services and Islamic banking,
- Health services sector
- Information and communications technology

In line with the national strategy for scientific research, which seeks to enhance the governance of scientific research and integration between higher education institutions in the Kingdom and international scientific research institutions, the HEC launched "Strengthening the Governance of Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions" project in cooperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This project aimed to assess universities research governance and entrepreneurship strategy and figure out challenges and opportunities in developing research capacity. Moreover, the project offered insights on strategies to achieve competitive advantage in research, innovation and knowledge transfer aimed at advancing scientific research in higher education institutions, and enhancing the performance of the scientific research system in these institutions.

## Scenario Planning workshop

Ms.Eman Alsadeq , Head of Governance & Strategic Planning delivered a workshop covering scenario planning techniques for decision making during the last extended UMC meeting held on 26 December 2019. Ms.Eman explained the steps for scenario planning using double-deliverables approach and ended the session by an explanatory exercise for the new strategic plan drafted vision, mission and success factors.



Written by  
Ms. Eman Al Sadeq  
Head of Governance  
and Strategic Planning  
Unit



## ASU's library participation in Al-Ayam 26th Cultural Festival



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa inaugurated the Al Ayam Book Fair hailing Bahrain's deep-rooted tradition that readily embraces various cultures and ideas. Two hundred and forty publishing houses from 16 countries are participating in the fair which features thousands of books on various topics and ideas.

ASU's library participated in Al-Ayam 26<sup>th</sup> Cultural Festival started on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2019 till 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. Sheik Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Sameer bin Abdulla Nass, the Chairman of

the Board of Directors of ASU, Shaikh Thamer Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of state of Kuwait in kingdom of Bahrain and ministers, diplomats, intellectuals and media figures visited the ASU's stand in the presence of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Dr Ammar Jalamneh; Director of Library and Information Services Directorate, Mr Abdulla Al Khaja; Director of Admin and Finance Directorate and library staff members during the opening ceremony. A short brief about the 56 ASU's Publications was delivered by Dr Ammar.

Also, the University President, Prof. Ghassan Fouad Aouad and Dr. Mohammed Yousif; VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement visited ASU's Stand.

ASUs' publications are being displayed and available for immediate purchase. The objectives of this participation is to introduce the ASU publications to the academic Bahraini community and to market the library as a contributing factor of the ASU research community.



Written by  
Ms. Maheera Faisal  
**Head of Administrative  
Services Unit - Library and  
Information Services Direc-  
torate**



## Advisory Board Meeting



The Bachelor in Accounting and Finance conducted their first Advisory Board Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 which was organised and managed by the Programme Leader Dr. Nympha Joseph.

The meeting brought to light important matters related to the :-

- Internship
- The Annual Programme Review Action plan for 2019-2020
- ACCA exemption
- CAAT contest
- College Strategic Plan.

The Chairman of the advisory board Prof Sayel Ramadhan along with the advisory board members approved the last minutes of the meeting. Dr. Ramzi Nekhili, the Dean of the College of Administrative Sciences shared his view by mentioning that the staff and students of ASU would like to attend seminars related to Fraud and Forensic Accounting organised by KPMG. This could help students having a blend of theory and practice in their study of courses such as Auditing. The Head of the Department Dr. Iaad Mustafa shared information related to the CAAT contest. He mentioned that the students of the Bachelor in Accounting and Finance, would be facing three rounds, one at the local level, second at the Regional level and third at the International level. Dr. Iaad Mustafa further added that the objective of this contest is to encourage Accounting major students to develop analytical skills and to develop skills in working with team members. Further he said the students are all very excited about the contest and are looking forward to this event.

The Programme leader Dr. Nympha Joseph thanked the external board members, namely, Prof. Sayel Ramadan, Mr. Osama Alkhaja, Mr. Arwind Sharma and Ms. Eman Khalid who is also our Alumni for attending the meeting.



Written by  
Dr. Joseph Nympha Rita  
Head of QAA Administrative  
Affairs Unit and Academic Staff  
In Department of Accounting  
and Finance

## Applied Science University is Honored by HE Minister of Labour and Social Development

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, Applied Science University presented by Professor Ghassan Aouad, the University President, Dr Mohammed Youssif, VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement, Dr Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, Manager of Community Engagement Office, and a number of academic and administrative staff, was honored by HE Mr Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Hamaidan, the Minister of Labour & Social Development, for supporting the online platform system to train the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) remotely on financial management.

The cooperation between University and the Ministry comes as a part of the Community Engagement Office at ASU initiative in building the online platform that aims to train 400 employees and volunteers from NGOs for 12 months and granting them a professional certificate in the management of funds of NGOs, and qualifying them for the position of financial secretary or accountant in the boards of NGOs.



Written by  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Hamami  
Office Manager of Community  
Engagement

Training programs will be available monthly through the online platform, the trainee will be able to view the training material according to the time available to him and will be able to submit the tests at the end of each unit and will receive an evaluation result electronically to be able to move to the next training unit.

During the honouring ceremony of launching the online platform, an honorary trophy was given by the Minister to Professor Ghassan Auwad, the University President and Dr Mohammed Youssif, VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement for their attendance. Also, the Minister gave appreciation certificates to Dr Mohammad Alaa Al- Hamami, Manager of CE Office and Associate Professor in Department of Management Information Systems, Dr Talal Al Alkawi, Associate Professor in Department of Accounting and Finance, Dr Ammar Esam Alsammaraee Assistant Professor in Department of Accounting and Finance, Professor Murad Abdalah Aljanabi, Academic Staff in the Department of Public Law, Dr Mohammad Abdalhafid Alkhamaiseh, Assistant Professor in Department of Private Law, Dr Murad Ali Altarawneh, Assistant Professor in Department of Private Law, Mr. Baha Eldeen Sami Karaimeh, Office Manager of Public Relations Office, and Mr Yusuf Ahmed Alghawi, Administrator in Marketing and Public Relations Directorate, for their contribution and efforts in building the online platform.

It is also worth mentioning that the Ministry provide 20 accounts for ASU students to participate in the online platform. A future visit will be conducted by the Directorate of Non-Government Organizations Support at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to ASU to honor ASU Staff who participated in building the online platform and couldn't attend the honouring ceremony of launching the online platform.



## Interview with Alumnus

	 <p>ASU Alumni Club</p>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Adnan Al Salahi</b>
<b>Workplace:</b>	<b>Al Salahi Restate</b>
<b>Academic Degree</b>	<b>Bachelor</b>
<b>Academic Major</b>	<b>Interior Design</b>
<b>Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.</b>	Studying at ASU helped building my social profile, personality and my self-confidence. I got the chance to develop my communication skills though preparing presentations during the taught courses.
<b>What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?</b>	I learned a lot from participating in the student council in its 10th cycle as it was a pleasure helping students and raising their voice to the upper management level. Also, volunteer works were the most exciting activity as it helped me developing my social skills.
<b>Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.</b>	Currently, I'm working in a field where I can utilize the Knowledge that I gained during my years of study.
<b>In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?</b>	Besides the importance of theory studies, it is important to implement more practical workshops to ensure the balance between both of them, as this can help preparing graduates for the industry. I would also like to see more variety of courses to be taught at ASU depending on a market study.
<b>Final words</b>	ASU is a one of the leading universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. I wish that our university grows more and take the excellence the higher and international levels.



Interviewed By: Mrs. Noora Musalam, **Manager of Career Development & Alumni Affairs Office, Deanship Of Student Affairs**

## Presentation of CS Graduation Projects



Students of CS432- Graduation Project in Computer Science Programme, presented their graduation projects for the 1st Semester 2019/2020 on Saturday, 4 January 2020. The students presented their graduation projects to the panel which consisted of: Dr. Jamal AlSultan - Project supervisor, Dr. Ibrahim AboAlSondos - External Assessor, Prof. Hilal AlBayatti- Internal Assessor and Dr. Samer Shorman - Internal Assessor.

At the beginning, Dr. Moaiad Khder, Head of the Computer Science Department welcomed the panel and students, then he read the terms of the presentation, the rights and duties of the students and the panel. The panel praised the students' ideas and their work, they gave them motivational words, and encouraged them to present to the best of their abilities. Three students presented their projects as follows:

Project Title	Student Name
Online Management Information	Abdulla AlKhalidi
Online University	Aimen Dhyab
Online Medical Consultation	Budoor Buawoosh

The students appreciated the department and college efforts in providing the necessary supervision and all the help needed to produce projects of good quality, and thanked the panel for their constructive feedback.



Written by  
Dr. Moaiad Khder  
Assistant Professor  
Head of Department of  
Computer Science , College  
of Arts & Science

## Quote of the week

*I believe in innovation and that the way you get innovation is you fund research and you learn the basic facts.*

*-Bill Gates*

من روائع الشعر العربي

“ العلم يرفع بيتا لاعماله . . . والجهل يهدم بيت العز والشرف ”

— أحمد شوقي