

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 48th issue of the 2nd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be addressing the issue of competitiveness based on the recently published report on Global Competitiveness (2017/2018). The Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) tracks the performance of close to 140 countries on 12 pillars of competitiveness. It assesses the improvements in productivity, which leads to long-term economic growth and prosperity. In this year's report, 137 nations were assessed and ranked.

The GCI combines 114 indicators that capture concepts that matter for productivity and long-term prosperity. These indicators are grouped into 12 pillars: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labor market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication, and innovation.

In this year's report, which covers 137 nations, the Kingdom of Bahrain has improved on last year. It is the only country in the GCC together with Oman, which has gone up based on the overall GCI index. Bahrain is now ranked 44 in the World (up from last year 48), Saudi Arabia has gone down by a place to 30, Qatar is down to 25 from 18, Kuwait is down from 38 to 52, UAE is down from 16 to 17, and Oman is up from 66 to 62. Bahrain is now ranked 4th in the GCC after UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Under Subindex A: basic requirements, Bahrain is ranked 40 including 1st pillar: institutions 23, 2nd pillar: infrastructure 33, 3rd pillar: macroeconomic environment 108, 4th pillar: health and primary education 37. Under Subindex B: efficiency enhancers, Bahrain is ranked 36 including 5th pillar: higher education and training 39, 6th pillar: goods market efficiency 23, 7th pillar: labor market efficiency 37, 8th pillar: financial market development 46, 9th pillar: technological readiness 31, 10th pillar: market size 90. Under Subindex C: innovation and sophistication, Bahrain is ranked 43 including 11th pillar: business sophistication 36, and innovation 45.

CONTACT US

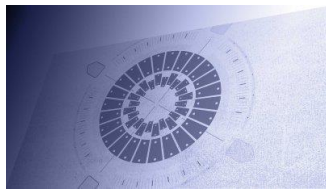


Office No: (+973) 16036161

Email: tania.kashou@asu.edu.bh

Bahrain has done relatively well in indicators, which are really relevant to our University like Higher Education and Training, Technological Readiness, and Innovation.

It is highly recommended that all colleagues read the Global Competitiveness report 2017/2018. I am working with colleagues from across the University to create a database that benchmark Bahrain's competitiveness performance against other Arab Nations based on these reports. This will help us to establish a research group that deals with topics related to competitiveness, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



CIOB CPD EVENT HOSTED BY ASU



On 24 September, the University hosted the inaugural CPD event of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In this event, Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University and past President of the CIOB delivered a CPD workshop titled "The Art and Science of Leadership in Construction". The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University and many dignitaries including HE the British Ambassador to Bahrain and his wife, the Korean Ambassador, the new Director of the British Council Bahrain and over 50 participants from various construction organizations and Government departments and our University attended the workshop.



The President started by presenting an overview of the University and the establishment of the College of Engineering with LSBU. He then presented an overview of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), which was founded in 1834 with over 45,000 members who are passionate about the development and progress of the construction sector and built environment.

The workshop addressed topics like leadership styles, the differences between leadership and management, top priorities for the construction sector over the next 5 years, and what the CIOB could deliver to its members.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Wafa Farooq Abdulla

Position: Administrator in Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies

1. Tell us about yourself: (Your childhood, academic background)

I grew up in a lovely caring family. I am the middle sister among 4 daughters and one brother. I obtained my Bachelor degree in Public Relations from University of Bahrain. I got married right after my graduation. I am blessed to have two daughters, Jana 8 years old, and Joori 3 years old. During that time, I worked in a décor company for 4 years.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in December 2010 as Administrator in the College of Law and in 2011 I joined the team of the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

ASU is going international especially after the partnership with British Universities.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

I really enjoy dealing with the academic staff especially when it comes to research and papers. I do like the friendly relationship among staff in the deanship.

The President gave an overview of the theory of leadership and whether leaders are born or made. He then presented some facts about various leaders in construction and how they have transformed this industry through the inspirational leadership style adopted. Their abilities to make a difference and to influence people around them have contributed to their successes.



The president highlighted that the right path for the successful leader is to think, plan, do and then evaluate. He then referred to some examples of global, Arab and local leading figures that have made a difference in all aspects of life, whether it is in engineering, IT, politics and other fields. He also pointed out that success lies in five key components: Leadership, Innovation, Passion, Technical Competence and Quality stating that leaders are not born, but they are made according to the context of the work they are doing. Speaking about the future of construction, the President concluded that green and smart buildings are currently the main trend in regional construction circles. This trend will raise the ceiling for the use of modern technology and integrated ICT, particularly Building Information Modeling (BIM), automated technologies like robotics, and the use of virtual reality and simulation to look at the impact of energy usage.



Ms Tania Kashou, Director of the President's office, has successfully organized the workshop and very positive feedback was received from the participants. Ms Eileen Hill, CIOB Manager of

MENA region, introduced the event and was a major contributor in publicizing it and attracting a good number of participants. This type of events helps us in raising the profile of the University and in attracting students to our new Engineering Programmes.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

I enjoy reading, and spend quality time with my daughters.

6. Tell us about your favourite food

My favourite food is chicken biryani and "Gabageb" Crabs ☺.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I daily read the holy book of "Qur'an"

8. Final words

I wish ASU all the best with attaining the accreditation.

STUDENTS' ORIENTATION DAY – FIRST SEMESTER OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

On 25 September 2017, the Deanship of Student Affairs organized “The Orientation Day” for the newly enrolled students for the first semester of the academic year 2017/2018.

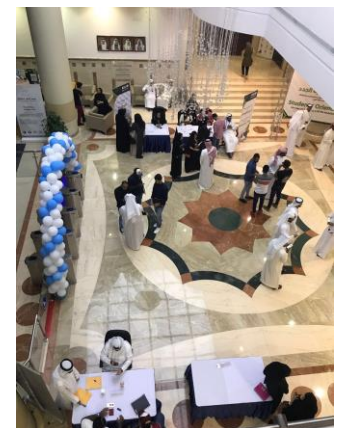
The event covered two sessions; the first one was in Abdulla Nass auditorium where welcoming speeches and presentations were delivered by various staff within the University in the presence and support from; Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University; the VPs (Dr Assem Al-Hajj and Dr Mohammed Yousif), all Deans, Vice Deans, President’ advisors and academic and administrative staff.



Professor Ghassan Aouad, the President of the University, opened the orientation day by an inspiring talk in welcoming our new students and endorsing their right choice to come to ASU, he explained the University’s vision, mission and the University’s organizational structure, in addition to the main forthcoming milestone of the institutional accreditation. As Always, he encourages the students to take part in extra-curricular activities offered by the university either within or outside the University in order to develop their full potential in becoming responsible graduates and valuable members within the community and beyond.

Dr Assem Al-Hajj, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Development introduced to the new students the four Colleges at ASU, their respective Deans, Head of Departments and the various offered programmes.

Dr Faiza Zitouni Dean of Student Affairs welcomed the new students and explained to them all the support offered at the Deanship including the help during this initial phase of their education at ASU to ensure a smooth transition from their previous educational institutions to our University. She also highlighted the support offered throughout their educational journey and the importance of taking part in the activities organized by the Deanship, and in joining the existing 5 clubs (i.e. women club, Sport club, Cultural club, Media club, and Volunteers club). She also explained the support offered to students with special needs and to students with financial difficulties. She added that the support within the deanship falls under the umbrella of the 3 offices including; the Office of Students Affairs, the Office of Counseling, the Office of Career Development and Alumni Affairs.



Dr Issa Al-Khayyat Dean of Admissions and Registration provided a welcoming speech with Mr Belal Odat, Head of advising and Direction Unit, who explained some imperative aspect about the Deanship and the importance in complying with the University by-laws policies and procedures.

Ms Ruqaya Mohsin, the Director of Marketing and Public affairs, also welcomed the new students and was the MC of the whole event.

Mr Mohammed Najjar organized with the great help of Ms Hadeel Bucheeri and all members of the student council a successful tour around the University; the students visited first their Colleges where all Deans, Vice Deans, Head of Departments and academic staff embraced their presence and explained the Colleges’ and departments’ important aspects, policies, regulations, support systems and processes.

All students also visited the directorate of Administration and Finance, Library facilities, IT and support systems, the Deanship of Admissions & Registration, Deanship of Student Affairs and others facilities including the cafeteria, praying rooms, female student room, games room etc.

The event was enjoyable and a great success, the new students were very happy, many thanks to all staff at the Deanship of Student Affairs, especially Mr Mohamed Najjar , Ms Hadeel Bucheerei and all members of the students' council for all their hard work.

ASU SETS UP A NEW COMMITTEE TO STEER THE ISO 9001:2015 PROJECT

Pursuing its continuous aspiration towards quality and illustrating the strong commitment of its leadership, ASU has created a new committee to implement and sustain a quality management system as per the ISO 9001:2015 standard, via the administrative decree n°13 issued by the President of the University.

The committee comprises representatives from all the departments at the University that are within the scope of the ISO 9001:2015 certification project. Through weekly minuted meetings and work sessions, the committee will ensure and verify the implementation of all the requirements of the aforementioned standard at each of these departments, and it will be reporting directly to the VP for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement.



The committee will be chaired by Mr. Hatem Dammak, Head of Internal Audit Unit, who was presented on Tuesday 26 September 2017 with his certificate after successfully completing the “Quality Management System Auditor / Lead Auditor Training Course Based on ISO 9001:2015” with the score of 81% in written examination and the grade of Excellent in the Continuous Assessment. The certificate was delivered at the Bahrain Branch of the certifying body RICI (Resource Inspections Canada Incorporated) located at AL SEEF area (RICI’s headquarter is in Ontario, Canada).

ASEAN SEMINAR

Prof Saad Darwish, attended on 13 September 2017 ASEAN Seminar (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), where many investors attended to build contact with ASEAN progressing countries. Together they have become a very critical economic block that cannot be ignored under current economic scenario.

The event was attended by heads of prominent financial institutions, industrialists and businessmen from various sectors. ASEAN countries are an ideal investment ground for Bahraini investors and businessmen alike.



With high growth achieved by ASEAN economies in last couple of years, there is growing interest from many investors, including from Middle East, to take part in various projects in the Asean region. There are opportunities arising out of urbanization among ASEAN countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, etc. and growing interest of large economies such as China and Japan in this region, which in turn is fueling growth in this important economic block.

With 600 million population having majority young under the age of 30 years, ASEAN is poised for a long and sustained growth trajectory.

POLICY OF THE WEEK

Policy for Students with Special Needs / Disabilities

The purpose of the policy

The purpose of the policy is to; (a) identify what are the types of special needs and disabilities that could affect the student's progress and wellbeing, (b) classify the key responsibilities of staff and students when dealing with students with special needs/ disabilities, (c) identify what kind of support the university can provide to students with special needs/disabilities and (d) identify the process for students to apply for assistance or guidance from the university.

The university aims to make all reasonable accommodations for students with special needs/disabilities and provides assistance when/ if needed with qualified staff and dedicated staff that are capable to handle various issues and situations.

Eligibility

All students who have been identified as having a special needs/disability that has a consequence on their academic and general wellbeing as students. The University admits all students who fulfill the admissions criteria and can be reasonably accommodating without posing any hardships to the university or students.

Support for students with disabilities

The University supports students with special needs/ disabilities as follows;

1. *Physical support for ease of access*; car Park slots, bathrooms facilities, entrances, ramps, railings elevators , classrooms, labs seating facilities, health clinic with proper staff and accessibility at all times.
2. *Counseling*; the University provides counselling services on regular basis
3. *Academic Support*; (a) Examination support including different examinations halls, breaks between exams, increasing examination time, note taking, changing time and location, giving due consideration in case of tardiness or absence. (b) In class support by designing classes which can accommodate students with special needs and disabilities adequately, note taking, tutoring, learning aids such as visual aids, hearing aids, assistive devices
4. *Financial Support*; on sole discretion the University administration may provide certain students with financial assistance such as grants, loans, scholarships or waiving of certain fees to students with disabilities as a form of assistance.

Procedure for applying for assistance

Students with a disability or special needs ought to disclose the nature of their disability on the University admissions application form. Any student who fails to notify his/ her case, the University waives any right that would otherwise have been obtained as per to this policy.

If assessed, based on the Universities sole discretion, that accommodating the nature of the disability or special need is posing hardship or risk to the University, then the student in question may be subject to having his/her registration cancelled and admission annulled.

Having identified the nature of his/her disability or special need, the student, after having been provisionally admitted to the University, will be interviewed by a committee that includes a representative drawn from each of the following: (a) student services, (b) student counselling, (c) member of the Admission committee, (d) A faculty member who has some background in psychology/ therapy or related fields. If the Committee, by majority vote, determines that the University can accommodate the kind of disability or special needs with which the student is encumbered, the student will be granted admission to the University, with a recognized disability or special need. Thus, making it possible for the student to avail of all the privileges/benefits conferred to disabled students and students with special needs as contained herein.

If the Committee, by majority vote, determines that the student does not have cognizable disability or special need, then the student will be granted ordinary admission – in which case the student cannot avail of all the privileges/benefits conferred to disabled students and students with special needs as contained herein.

If the Committee, by majority vote, determines that the student has a cognizable disability or special need but which the University cannot feasibly accommodate, the student will be denied admission and the provisional admission will be withdrawn. The University is not responsible for any costs the student may have incurred, of any sort, by reliance on the provisionally offered admission.

In the event that the Committee is divided on whether the student has a cognizable disability or special need, the Committee will refer the matter to a professional from outside the University for Final Judgment.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Cardiff Met Open Day hosted by ASU, 5 October 2017 1:00-3:00pm



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing.”

Thomas A. Edison

Happy Reading

