



PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 8th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.

I would like to start this edition by wishing our colleagues Happy Season's Festivities and to thank them for all their hard work in 2017. I sincerely hope that 2018 will be a good year for our University.



In this issue, I will be covering our strategic plan which has gone through a mid cycle review and a strategic plan booklet is being produced and will be shared with all staff and students and external stakeholders. In this message, I relied heavily on the key messages of this booklet.

As we developed our Strategic Plan, we identified the three areas on which we focus our efforts and the four areas, which enable us to do this. Together these make up the Seven Pillars of our strategic activities.

The focus areas are:

- Teaching & Learning
- Research
- Community Engagement

The enabling areas are:

- Student Support
- Internationalization & Partnerships
- Quality Assurance
- Sustainable Growth

These Seven Pillars were identified because they are key to achievement of our Mission, and our primary purpose of serving our community through provision of high quality education and the promotion of a culture of learning, research and engagement with the community.

Our strategic planning process is a holistic one, encompassing a broad-based development stage and re-evaluation of its goals and strategic directions on a continuous basis, in light of new challenges and opportunities. The Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the HEC's Higher Education and National Research Strategies have always guided our thinking in this area.

Mid-way through the 2015-2020 cycle, and alongside activity for the HEC Accreditation process and the inauguration of the first British programmes to be delivered at ASU in partnership with London South Bank University and Cardiff Metropolitan University, the University decided to undertake an in-depth review of the Strategic Plan to gauge the degree of achievement to date of its strategic objectives and the related KPIs.

In order to ensure participation by all stakeholders, the review involved a series of brainstorming and consultation meetings with the University's main stakeholders such as student and employer representatives, members of academic staff, administrative staff, and Senior Management Group and external consultants.

Workshops were also held to update ASU's SWOT Analysis and its Institutional Risk Register. This in-depth review, coordinated and led by the Governance and Strategic Planning Unit, resulted in an updated set of institutional KPIs that are more current and more reflective of the strategic direction of the university.

This updated Strategic Plan, supported by annual Operational Plans, will continue to guide the University in the implementation of its Vision and Mission and the achievement of its Strategic Objectives.

To enable ASU to implement its Strategic Plan and achieve its goals, all University colleges, departments, units, directorates and deanships are required to develop annual Operational Plans that are closely linked and mapped to ASU Strategic Objectives and Key Priorities. The Operational Plans are updated regularly and are reviewed by the Board of Trustees at least twice each academic year.

The monitoring system includes:

- Continuous assessment of the level of progress achieved against the previously-set targets
- Occasional internal audits to verify that achievements are based on evidence and proper documentation.
- A comprehensive Strategy Implementation Report which is issued at the end of the academic year
- A bespoke Dashboard for ASU's institutional KPIs to measure overall performance at any given time

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Dr. Atheelah Yassin Alazzawi

Position: Assistant Professor

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

I was born in Baghdad, Al Aathamia, and my childhood was wonderful, my mother was an affectionate, well-educated woman and she sacrificed her life for us, and my father was a University Professor and a Head of Philosophy Department, he was multitalented and exposed to a broad culture, fluent in more than seven languages. They did a lot to give us culture, education, confidence and freedom, they would not miss a vacation without a trip inside Iraq or a trip outside.

I completed my bachelor's degree at the University of Baghdad and was ranked first among my fellow. I was appointed as a lecturer at the college. I was accepted directly into the master's degree, completed my studies at the University of Baghdad. After that I worked as a faculty member until the opening of the doctorate at the College of Administration and Economics at Baghdad University. I was accepted in the first batch where I got my Ph.D. in 1993, then I returned to teach at the same college, where I was selected for the distinguished women in 1996. I stayed in the college until 2001, then moved to Jordan and worked there at the University of Israa until 2008, then I moved to Bahrain to (ASU) until now.

These measures, separately and together, ensure that progress is made and measured and that effective action is taken when necessary, in order to achieve ASU's Strategic Objectives.

Finally, ASU's Governance & Strategic Planning Unit has responsibility to collaborate with the various units and departments of the University to make sure that the Strategic Plan is being clearly communicated and fully understood by our stakeholders and that our staff are sufficiently equipped to implement it successfully.

After the University first devised its Strategic Plan in 2015, we immediately began work on implementation and major progress has been made by the date of the mid-stage review in 2017.

During this period, the many significant milestones achieved include:

- ✓ Full confidence from Bahrain's Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) for additional programmes, bringing the total number of programmes with Full Confidence to nine (three more to be reviewed in 2018)
- ✓ Collaboration agreement with the Higher Education Academy (UK) for pedagogic development of our faculty where 50% of our academic staff are now HEA Fellows or Senior Fellows or in the process of achieving this qualification
- ✓ International partnership agreements with two leading British universities, London South Bank University and Cardiff Metropolitan University are in place. Four programmes are now in operation and recruited their first students in September 2017
- ✓ Institutional Listing for the University on Bahrain's National Qualifications Framework (NQF) Register by the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA)
- ✓ Successful application for HEC Institutional Accreditation and a significant progress has also been made on preparations for the Accreditation Panel Visit
- ✓ Niche research areas identified for collaborative research activities within the University and an increase of almost 70% in the number of research publications (42 in 2014/15 and 71 in 2016/17)

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I am currently an Assistant Professor at the University in the Department of Business Administration for the tenth year. I was the Head of Department for four years, and then the Coordinator of Graduate Programmes in the Department. Currently, I am the Coordinator of the BBA Programme.

My colleagues and I have been able to have full confidence in the three departmental programmes, and my main work is teaching which I am proud of.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I think the University has a good reputation and a bright future. After achieving institutional accreditation with a will of God, I expect it to expand as one of the best universities in the Gulf region, as it is currently one of the best universities in Bahrain.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Despite my long experience in teaching (38 years), teaching and communicating information to students, especially in the quantitative subjects remains my primary pleasure, and I feel happy when they understand and love the scientific material.

In addition to the presence of wonderful colleagues, and with their support and mutual cooperation between us we are the family of the ASU.

5. Tell us about your hobbies

Although I rarely find free time, I have many hobbies such as oil painting, reading, learning languages, sewing and knitting, ceramics and sports.

- ✓ International Conference on Sustainable Futures (ICSF 2017), an international research conference organised and held in November 2017 in collaboration with London South Bank University, with participants from over 20 countries
- ✓ Our robust Quality Management System (QMS) set in place, together with starting the process of achieving ISO 9001:2015 certification
- ✓ Strengthened links with the business community via formal agreements with employers and organizations (including Flat 6 Labs, SMEs Bahrain, Bahrain Businesswomen’s Society, Royal Charity Organization, etc)
- ✓ An increased number of entrepreneurship courses and activities to enable students to prepare better for their future careers
- ✓ An enhanced programme of community engagement activities
- ✓ Additional student clubs establish in collaboration with the
- ✓ Students’ Council to enrich students’ university experience
- ✓ ASU Alumni Club, inaugurated to sustain contact with and support to our students after they graduate
- ✓ An all staff meeting will be called soon to present our updated strategic plan. In addition, sessions will be held with our students and external stakeholders in order to keep them up-to-date

CHRISTMAS CAROL

On the evening of 12 December, the President and his daughter Hannah attended a Christmas Carol party hosted by HE the British Ambassador, Mr Simon Martin, and his wife Sophie. It was a joyful event and funds were raised for local charities



6. Tell us about your favourite food

I like Iraqi food like biriani, Dolma, Grilled Kobba etc.

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

Of course, I am committed to read and memorize the Quran on a daily basis, and now I will start reading a book called “The Productive University - The Strategic Visions and Means of Implementation’ by Dr. Hommam Abdul Khaliq and Dr. Mohammed Abdul Wahab Al-Azzawi.

8. Final words

I hope more success to the University and to get the institutional accreditation soon, under our wise and efficient management guidance.

I wish all the best to my colleagues (academics and administrative), with whom I feel we are one family, working in a team spirit for the sake of our University’s success.

ENGINEERING MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME HOSTED BY THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

In light of Kingdom of Bahrain’s celebration of the Bahriani Woman Day in the Engineering field, the Supreme Council for Women has established a mentorship programme for female engineering students in Bahrain. The programme is run in collaboration with Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) and Bahraini Universities where a Bahraini University hosts one of the company’s engineers to deliver an interactive talk to the engineering students in the university. The College of Engineering at Applied Science University (ASU) hosted Eng. Reem Al-Otaibi from GPIC to speak to ASU Engineering students about the profile of her company and different engineering fields the company is involved in. The event took place at the Dome Hall on Tuesday, 13 December 2017.



The event was attended by Professor Gassan Aouad, Dr Assem Al Hajj and the College of Engineering academic staff and students. The event started by a welcome speech from Professor Ghassan followed by short speech about the Engineering Mentorship Programme by the Supreme Council for Women representative then the talk by Eng. Reem Al-Otaibi followed by a discussion with the students. The students valued the event and engaged in a vibrant discussion with the speaker on topics related to the needed skills in industry, the nature of the engineering profession and how to be a good engineer.

REIMAGINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE & AWARDS

Dr. Mohammed Yousif, VP for Administrative, Financial Affairs and Community Engagement attended the “REIMAGINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE & AWARDS” held in USA on 4 and 5 December 2017. The Reimagine Education Conference is an elite educational forum for academics, ed tech innovators, investors, policy-makers and teachers to come together to drive discussion about how we can transform educational practice.



Some of the speakers in this conference were:

- Jonathan Rochelle, Product Management Director at Google Apps for Education
- Satya Nitta, Global Head at IBM Research
- Bill Deresiewicz, bestselling author, ‘Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite’

During the conference Dr. Mohammed networked with innovators from across the educational landscape and discussed key issues facing the world’s educators, from the future of work, to potential uses of virtual reality in the classroom; from the need to create new learning spaces, to the future of the university itself.

Prof. Wind and Mr. Quacquarelli, founders of Reimagine Education welcomed the audience and provided the context for the two-day gathering of Educational Innovators; joined by Barbara Kurshan, Executive Director of Academic innovation



at Penn GSE and member of the steering committee of Reimagine Education; the sessions covered in the conference were:

- An overview of the global competition with key facts, stats & figures
- An infographic about the conference attendees by country, industry, roles, job titles and interests
- An overview of the topics which will be explored and debated during the two days conference
- The relationship between literacy, learning through a conversation focusing on PreK-12 education.

This conversation will focus on the importance of fostering literate environments, concrete best practices, and the implementation of literacy-based learning across the curriculum to reach all learners.

□ Education and work are ever-changing, yet the need to prepare students for their future remains constant. With new learning platforms, models and approaches, educators and faculty members know they need to shift their teaching and learning practices. School and university leaders need to recalibrate what type of graduates they are producing and how prepared they are for their future. With each new innovation in education comes the opportunity for more equitable and global learning experiences and increased access to all K12 and Higher Education students around the world.

THE PRESIDENT PRESENTS A COPY OF THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS TO DR MONA ALBLOOSHI

On 20 December 2017, the President visited Dr Mona AlBlooshi, Assistant Secretary General of the Higher Education Council and presented her with a copy of the Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures that was held last November. Dr Mona praised the quality of the conference and proceedings and highlighted the importance of scientific research for the University and the sector as a whole. The peer refereed proceedings contains 65 research papers from researchers from 20 countries across the globe. The President emphasised the importance of the National Research Strategy developed by the HEC and Economic Vision 2030 in driving research in the University.



ASU INTERVIEW WITH SAUDI TV

“Good Morning KSA” a programme on Saudi Television, did an interview with Dr. Mahammad Alaa Al-Hamami, the Manager of the Community Engagement Office, Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, a member of the Community Engagement Office and student care, and a group of ASU students during the University’s participation in the activity that was organised by the Royal Charity Organization in Bahrain National Museum on the occasion of martyr day.



During the interview, Dr. Al-Hamami congratulated the Government and people of Bahrain on the 46th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the 18th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and gave a summary of the activities organised by the University in cooperation with community partnerships on the occasion of the Bahrain National Day.



Mr. AlRamini thanked the Saudi TV and extended his congratulations to the government and people of KSA for the participation in celebrating Bahrain National Day. The students Walied Abad, Fatima Ahmad, Mohamed AlDowahie, Mohamed Ramadan and Fatma buhamdoon presented their sincere greetings and congratulations as well on the occasion of Bahrain National Day.

ASU'S PARTICIPATION IN MARTYR'S DAY

On 17 December, Applied Science University represented by Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, the Manager of Community Engagement Office and Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, a member of the Community Engagement Office and Student Care with a group of the University students participated in Martyr's Day that has been organized by the Royal Charity Organization with in cooperation with ASU.

The celebration that was hosted by Bahrain Authority for Culture Antiquities in Bahrain National Museum was arranged for the children of the Royal Charity Organization, who planted the Razaji seedlings in the Darcin cafe garden.

A technical workshop was held for the children to make paper cards inspired by the flower of Razzji, and to draw words from the heart dedicated to the martyr, thus contributing to enhancing their spirit of citizenship and enhancing the spirit of belonging to this precious land. During the celebration, ASU students engaged with the children and provided presents to them.



ASU'S PARTICIPATION IN "براعم الوطن" CELEBRATION

In celebration of the 46th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain and 18th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Royal Charity Organization in cooperation with Applied Science University organized "براعم الوطن" celebration that was hosted by Noor Land in Al-Ali Mall on the evening of Sunday 17 December 2017.

Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, the Manager of the Community Engagement Office, Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini, and Dr. Houriya AlDeeb, members of the Community Engagement Office, with a group of students took part in the celebration. At the end of the activities, ASU members gave presents to the children who were present.



ASU'S PARTICIPATION IN "HALA DECEMBER BAHRAIN" FESTIVAL



In celebration of the 46th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain and 18th Anniversary of the Accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and to ensure that Applied Science University is committed to creating an impact on society; the University participated in organizing "Hala December



Bahrain” festival under the patronage of Bahrain Society for Social and National Consensus, and in cooperation with Council of the Secretariat of the Capital, Northern Municipal Council, Southern Municipal Council, Muharraq Governorate Municipal Council, Bahrain Volunteer Media Team, and many other partners.

A number of the University staff and students participated in organizing and attending the event that included many activities such as national songs, poetry, competitions and awards, a popular market, gallery of photos and graphics, face painting, and Henna.

Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami, during his speech, congratulated the government and people of Bahrain on the occasion of the National Day, and he welcomed the audience, and gave a summary about the University. Mr. Thaer Mustafa AlRamini supervised the coordination of the festival. Ahmad AlGhazy Bin Thabet (student) read verses from the Holy Quran, Waled Mohammed Abad (student) delivered a speech about Bahrain and Mr. Mohammed Abdullah AlDosari (student) was the MC at the opening of the ceremony.

The event was held in Corniche El Fateh on Monday 18 December 2017.

REMINDER OF THE WEEK

Deadline for submitting progress reports for Arts and Science 4 January 2018

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Leaders establish the vision for the future and set the strategy for getting there.”

John P. Kotter



 *Happy Reading!* 