

PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 26th issue of the 4th year of the President's News Digest.

In this edition of the News Digest, I will be reporting on the panel discussion of the Bett MEA Leadership Summit 2019 that took place on 23 April in Abu Dhabi and the subject was “Skills Gap: Are Universities in MEA Moving Beyond Lipservice?” I was one of four panelists which included:



Moderator: Dr Senthil Nathan, General Manager and Co-Founder, Edu Alliance Ltd; Former Deputy Vice Chancellor, Higher Colleges of Technology, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Professor Waqar Ahmad, Chancellor and Provost, Abu Dhabi University, UAE

Professor Ehab Abdel-Rahman, Professor and Provost, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

The panel discussed issues related to skills gap and the preparedness of graduates to enter different types of markets.

In my introductory statements, I highlighted how the shift happened from Agricultural to Industrial then Knowledge Economy and how the curriculum was developed to cater for different needs. I also raised issues related to the 4th industrial revolution and its implications on graduates and the curriculum.



The following issues were highlighted during the panel discussion: the importance of STEM subjects in driving innovation; collaboration between government, industry, and higher education institutions; role of schools; re-skilling; digital divide; entrepreneurship in the curriculum; incubation centres; role of society in driving innovation; importance of simulation and automation subjects; and importance of creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation, and emotional Intelligence skills for students and graduates. The panel also discussed the implications of skills gaps on higher education and re-skilling in the Arab World and worldwide, which are affected by traditional teaching methods; curriculum which is not

responding to market needs; embryonic research; and digital divide.

I attached the brief of the panel discussion, which gives a good background.

Skills Gap: Are Universities in MEA Moving Beyond Lipservice? A panel discussion of University and Business Leaders.

A new World Economic Forum report, *The Future of Jobs 2018*, says that 75 million jobs will be displaced by AI, robotics, and automation by 2022, but 133 million new jobs may be created as organizations shift the balance between human workers and machines: a net gain of 58 million.



“To prevent an undesirable lose-lose scenario — technological change accompanied by talent shortages, mass unemployment and growing inequality — it is critical that businesses take an active role in supporting their existing workforces through reskilling and upskilling, that individuals take a proactive approach to their own lifelong learning and that governments create an enabling environment, rapidly and creatively, to assist in these efforts,” the report said.

By 2025, the majority of workplace tasks in existence today will be performed by machines or algorithms. At the same time a greater number of new jobs will be created – but neither businesses nor governments have fully grasped the size of this key challenge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Given the disrupting business models, by 2022, the skills required to perform most jobs will have shifted significantly - an average shift of 42% in required workforce skills over the 2018–2022 period. By 2022, 54% of all employees will require significant re- and upskilling. Of these, about 35% are expected to require additional training of up to six months.

Companies may apply three future strategies to manage these skills gaps: hire wholly new permanent staff already possessing skills relevant to new technologies; seek to automate the work tasks completely; and retrain existing employees.



The likelihood of hiring new permanent staff with relevant skills is nearly twice the likelihood of strategic redundancies of staff lagging behind in new skills adoption.

INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



Name: Muna Ali Isa Abualshouk

Position: Administrator in the Library and Information Services Directorate

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

I'm 28 years old, single, from Muharraq. I graduated from AMA University with a Bachelor degree in Business Informatics.

2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in 2017 as an Administrator in the Library, I do so many tasks like: entering the books in the system, cataloging and classifying books, and lending books, etc.

Also I'm now responsible for periodicals and data base system.

3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

I'm so proud of ASU, because it's growing day by day and heading toward getting the Accreditation Certification.

4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

My job required providing good services with high quality in order to achieve student's satisfaction. As I'm sociable and friendly person it's easy for me to interact with the students and staff.

This is where colleges and universities will need to play a significant role in producing graduates with these new skills.

However, nearly a quarter of companies are undecided or unlikely to pursue the retraining of existing employees, and two-thirds expect workers to adapt and pick up skills in the course of their changing jobs.

Training providers as well as online educational options such as MOOCs are expected to play a significant role to re-skilling a large portion of 54% of the workforce of today who will need this. In-company learning development departments, training companies as well as professional colleges will need to be part of this strategy.

The Middle East and Africa Region (MENA / MEA) will not be exempt from this global trend. However, the region also faces additional challenges that will make this Skills Gap issue much more challenging.

QS MAPLE 2019 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The President, Vice President Dr Mohamed Yousif, Advisor to the President for Follow up Affairs and Director of Administration and Finance, Mr Abdulla Alkhaja, and Mr Ruqaya Mohsin, Director



of Marketing and Public Relations attended the QS Maple 2019 Conference and Exhibition that was held in Dubai at Zayed University from 22 to 25 April. The conference covered many subjects related to university rankings, quality of education, and importance of internationalisation amongst many other topics. ASU had a stand at the exhibition which was manned by Ms Ruqaya and visited by many participants.



ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASU STAFF MEMBERS ACHIEVE THEIR “CERTIFIED RISK MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL” CERTIFICATIONS

On Monday 22 April 2019, 4 academic staff members representing the 4 colleges and 3 administrative staff members whose jobs involve risk management, have received their “Certified Risk Management Professional” Certifications from AJA Europe, a renowned



5. Tell us about your hobbies

All kind of sport and travelling

6. Tell us about your favourite food

Seafood and Sushi

7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

I'm not a reader.

8. Final words

I wish our University more improvement and success.

certification and inspection body that is part of an international group operating in 25 countries on five continents.

The staff members have been awarded their certification after attending the required training and participating at the practical workshops and successfully meeting all the certification requirements.



This certification is particularly important for the Colleges which are now updating their risk registers in line with their operational plans for the next academic year 2019/2020. For the administrative side, the certification is also important as the 3 staff members deal with risk management in their jobs be it at the level of strategic and operational planning, partnerships with local and international institutions, or compliance with the regulations and expectations of the various regulatory bodies in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The awardees are as follows:

- Dr. Ahmed Arbab: College of Administrative Sciences
- Dr. Jamal Alsultan: College of Arts and Science
- Dr. Qais Maaitah: College of Law
- Dr. Nihad Almughany: College of Engineering
- Ms. Eman Alsadeq: Head of Governance & Strategic Planning Unit
- Ms. Catherine Hogan: Manager of International Partnership Office, Coordinator in the President's Office
- Mr. Hatem Dammak: Head of Audit & Compliance Unit, Acting Secretary General of University Councils



ASU PARTICIPATED IN THE FOURTH EXHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR



Applied Science University represented by Ms. Zuhoor Hasan, from the Administrative Affairs Department, participated in the Fifth exhibition on Employment in the Educational Sector. The Labour and Social Development Ministry organised the exhibition under the patronage of Labour and Social Development Minister Jamil bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan.

The event, which was held at the Labour and Social Development Ministry in Zayed Town on 24 and 25 April, aimed to employ jobseekers who have completed their secondary or higher education. The participating educational institutions and private training ones showcased their vacancies which include various administrative, educational, technical and supervisory posts.

ASU JOB FAIR 2019

The Career Development and Alumni Affairs Office in the Deanship of Student Affairs organized an extremely successful “Job Fair” on Wednesday, 10 April 2019 that was under the patronage of Mr. Jameel Bin Mohamed Ali Humaidan, the Minister of Labor and Social Development



The Minister, Mr. Jameel Bin Mohamed Ali Humaidan opened the fair and honored the governmental institutions and companies that participated.

A great support was apparent throughout the event from Professor Waheeb Alkhaja, the Chairman of the Board of trustees, Professor Ghassan Aouad the University President, the Vice Presidents, and the Deans.



Twenty-six Companies participated from both the public and private sector. A large number of students who attended the event were very pleased with the job fair that presented to them potential great job and training opportunities.

A big thanks goes to Ms. Noora Musalam for organizing this big event, Deanship of Student Affairs, the Student Council Members and the Alumni Club Board of Directors.

APPLIED RESEARCH IN MIS STUDENTS PRESENTED THEIR WORK TO THE EXAMINATION COMMITTEE



On Monday 22 April 2019, and in the presence of Dr. Ahmad Shatat - Head of Management Information systems Department, students of Applied Research in MIS course of the BMIS Program for the second semester, presented their work to the examination committee that consisted of Dr. Mohammad Obeidat and Mr. Rifat Hussain.

The students worked on interesting and promising topics such as Arabian Gulf Website, Digitalizing Customs Clearance Procedures, To Gather-Coffee Website, Students Motivational Guide, Design a Website for Volunteer Lawyers, and Online MIS Courses Library. The students were under the supervision of Dr. Mohammad Alaa Al-Hamami.



INTERVIEW WITH ALUMNUS



Name:	Omar Ghassan Mahmoud
Workplace:	Mena Scope, Saudi Arabia
Academic Degree	Bachelor
Academic Major	Accounting and Finance
Tell us about your Experience at ASU in terms of learning environment and teaching methods.	It was an amazing experience throughout my life. I gained tons of skills as a student, one of the most important of which was beating my fear of doing presentations.



What did you enjoy the most about your experience at ASU?	All indoor and outdoor events and activities held and conducted such as the educational exhibitions, conferences and even after graduation: the alumni's gathering events.
Tell us a success story inspired by ASU.	Challenging myself to get the degree as I live in Saudi Arabia and heading to Bahrain to attend classes on a daily basis was a struggle; it made me know how to manage my time and balance my life between work and study along with my social life. Also, being a member in the Alumni Club Board of Directors in its 3rd Cycle is a success itself.
In your Opinion, What are the Improvement areas you would like to see at ASU in the future?	ASU is perfect
Final words	Join us at ASU's Alumni Club <input type="checkbox"/>
Interviewed By: Maheera Faisal, Alumni Affairs Committee Chair; ASU Alumni Club	

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Schooling doesn't assure employment but skill does."
Amit Kalantri

Happy Reading!