

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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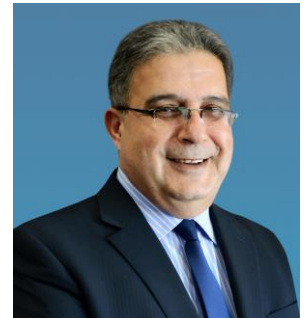
    
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 45th issue of the 4th volume of the President's News Digest. In this issue of the News Digest, I will address the subject of “The Global Innovation Index 2018”.



The Global Innovation Index 2018 provides detailed metrics about the innovation performance of 126 countries and economies around the world. Its 80 indicators explore a broad vision of innovation, including political environment, education, infrastructure and business sophistication.

It is clear from the published figures that Arab nations could have performed better in this area. However, this is due to many reasons including the following:

Low investment in research and development: the average Arab Nations expenditure on research as percentage of GDP is relatively low at a figure of around 0.5%.

Lack of national innovation strategies: there are few Arab Nations that have developed national innovation strategies. These are really needed to drive innovation at national levels.

Very few innovation and technology parks are in existence: only few nations have developed innovation and technology parks in order to support business incubation and other innovation related activities

Innovation echo systems are lacking. These systems are essential in order to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.



Lack of interest in the private sector in universities research: the industry needs to have the confidence in universities to perform research that could be translated into commercial products.

Collaboration between universities and with industry is lacking: universities in the Arab World have to collaborate in developing research and innovation opportunities through the use of shared resources including innovation parks.

Collaboration between government, universities, businesses and NGO organisations is lacking: this is vital in creating a culture of innovation and creativity

Number of registered patents is low: Arab universities and other organisations need to register more patents that could be turned into real commercial products.

Country	Ranking
UAE	38
Kuwait	60
KSA	61
Tunisia	66
Oman	69
Bahrain	72
Morocco	76
Jordan	79
Lebanon	90
Egypt	95
Algeria	110
Yemen	126

**References:-**

[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_gii\\_2018.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2018.pdf)

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## APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY VISITS LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY (UK)



A delegation from Applied Science University visited London South Bank University in September 2019 to discuss matters relating to the ongoing partnership between the two universities. ASU's delegation consisted of Professor Waheeb Alkhaja (the Chairman of ASU's Board of Trustees), Professor Ghassan Aouad (ASU's President), Mr Abdulla Alkhaja (Director of Administration & Finance) and Ms Catherine Hogan (Head of International Partnerships). The ASU delegation had fruitful meetings with the Vice Chancellor of LSBU Professor David Phoenix, the Deputy

Vice Chancellor Professor Paul Ivey and many other senior colleagues. The discussions spanned institutional and national updates, partnership management and collaboration on academic degrees, joint research and staff development activities.

The ASU and LSBU partnership was established in 2014 and covers a range of activities. In September 2017 the first students were admitted to the LSBU degrees hosted at ASU (in architectural design engineering and civil & construction engineering) and several more degrees are planned to open in September 2020. On the research side, ASU faculty are collaborating with LSBU faculty on joint research projects relevant to Bahrain's national priority for renewal energy solutions (one on the relationship between roof shapes, energy consumption and thermal comfort and the other on integrating wind turbines in the built environment). Staff development activities include leadership development, teaching strategies in higher education and other topics designed to enhance the student experience. Future plans for the partnership include summer schools, study abroad schemes for students and staff exchange schemes. ASU and LSBU are also organizing their second international research conference - the International Conference on Innovation, Technology, Enterprise & Entrepreneurship will be held in Bahrain on 24/25 November 2019.

ASU has recently been awarded Accreditation by Bahrain's Higher Education Council and its courses have achieved confidence status from Bahrain's Quality Assurance Authority. In international rankings, ASU has reached #45 in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2019; the 301+ category of the THE University Impact Rankings 2019; and the 601+ category (and #25 in Arab region) in the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking 2018 – all three are the highest placing among Bahrain's private universities in all the rankings. HEA Fellowships have now been awarded to 53 of our staff in recognition of professional standards in supporting student learning. In addition, ASU's students won University Company of the Year in the Young Entrepreneurs Competition 2019, organised by INJAZ Bahrain. Like ASU, LSBU is a student-centred university with a focus on entrepreneurship and employability. LSBU has a Silver rating in the UK government's Teaching Excellence Framework and was awarded University of the Year for Graduate Employment in 2018.

**Written by Ms. Catherine Hogan**

## THE CEO & CHAIRWOMAN OF MEDPOINT DESIGN VISIT TO ASU



On Thursday 5th September, HE Shaikha Noora Bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, the CEO and Chairwoman of Medpoint Design visited the University with her organizing partner of the exhibition Mr Hussein Habib.

They met Professor Ghassan Aouad, the University President and discussed a number of essential topics, including the University's participation in the Training and Education Pre-Employment Exhibition 2019 (Medpoint) ninth edition.

Professor Aouad, highlighted the significance of participating in (Medpoint) and the areas where the exhibition emphasized in supporting the higher education and vocational training as per the requirements of the labour market.

He also mentioned that the participation in the exhibition was essential to present the University and its academic programmes to the students and visitors. He pointed out the University's keenness to participate in further educational exhibitions to promote the skills and knowledge that keep up with the specialisations of the students.



Written by Mr. Baha Karaimeh

## WELCOME BACK

**WELCOME  
BACK!**

**Welcome back to all our colleagues.**

**Wish you all the best in the New Academic year  
2019/2020.**

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow."*

**William Pollard**

*Happy Reading!*