

# PRESIDENT'S NEWS DIGEST

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 5th issue of the 3rd year of the President's News Digest.



In this issue, I will be covering our international conference on sustainable future that took place on the 26-27 November 2017. The Conference was held under the patronage of HE the Minister of Education, Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi and in association with London South Bank University with sponsorships from the Chartered Institute of Building (partial sponsoring of the conference proceedings and best paper on innovation), Nass Group (sponsoring the Gala Dinner), the Higher Education Academy in the UK (sponsoring 2 best papers on sustainable futures), LSBU (partial sponsoring of the proceedings and best paper on research methodology) and many other sponsors.

On the first day, the Conference started with opening remarks from the President of the University and Conference Chair who provided the context for the conference and the rationale for organizing it and provided some research results about the status of competitiveness of Bahrain in relation to other Arab nations and trends over the last 5 years.



A welcome speech was then delivered by Dr Abdul Ghani Al Shuwaikh, Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, on behalf of HE the Minister of Education who spoke at length about the importance of the topic in light of the National Research Strategy developed by the HEC.



Prof Waheeb Alkhaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ASU and Honorary Chair of the Conference, then delivered a speech about the importance of sustainability from Universities' perspective and how our University is keen to embrace a sustainable approach.

In his speech, Prof Waheeb said “As Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Applied Science University it gives me a great pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests and scholars and researchers and practitioners who have come all the way to Bahrain from as far as Australia, United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, Nigeria, and Turkey and many other countries”.



Prof Waheeb added that “this topical conference organized by Applied Science University in association with London South Bank University and with great support from the Chartered Institute of Building, the Association of Arab Universities and the Higher Education Academy in the UK covers important topics related to our globe and its future sustainability. It is pleasing to see the Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Building, Mr Chris Blythe, amongst our distinguished guests.



This conference will undoubtedly contribute to HM the king’s vision 2030 to make the Kingdom of Bahrain a truly international knowledge hub. The wise leadership of our Kingdom is enabling us to generate knowledge and conduct research that is relevant to our society and communities”. He then thanked HE, the Minister of Education in Bahrain, Dr Majed bin Ali Alnuaimi for his continuous support and for the patronage of this conference and added that our Ministry, the Higher Education Council, and the Bahrain Quality Assurance Authority are doing a great job in transforming Education and Higher Education in the Kingdom, and we are all committed to their vision and state of the art guiding strategies.



Prof Waheeb added, “ASU has signed a strategic partnership with LSBU and we launched the College of Engineering last September and we are jointly organizing this conference and soon we will be announcing a joint venture to support research, innovation and enterprise. It is pleasing to see Prof David Phoenix, Vice Chancellor and President of LSBU and many colleagues from LSBU attending this conference. We have also signed a memorandum of collaboration with Cardiff Met and we launched 2 programs in Management and Business Studies and Accounting and Finance last September”.



He concluded by stating, “building a sustainable future is an important priority for many universities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and beyond. The future leaders of tomorrow need to preach what they learnt about sustainability and undoubtedly Universities can play a major role in producing these future leaders. It is important to address the issue of sustainability by covering the three pillars of Environment, Technology and Economics. Applied Science University (ASU) in Bahrain and since its establishment has operated to be environmentally friendly within the sustainable buildings and campuses context, particularly in terms of the efficient use of energy and resources, especially the use of wastewater” and concluded by once again thanking HE, Dr Majed bin Ali Alnuaimi for his patronage and by wishing participants a successful conference and a pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Following Prof Waheeb's talk, speeches were made by HE Mr Simon Martin, the British Ambassador to Bahrain, about the importance of joint collaboration between Bahraini and British Universities, Prof David Phoenix, Vice Chancellor of LSBU who spoke about the value of linking research and innovation, and finally Mr Chris Blythe, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Building about the role of professional bodies in supporting sustainable futures. The opening ceremony, which was attended by around 200 people, concluded with awarding the speakers and a group photograph. It was pleasing to see Mr Sameer Nass, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Honorary Chair of the Conference, attending the opening ceremony.



Following the opening ceremony, keynote speeches were made by Dr Farzana Al Maraghi from the Higher Education Council in Bahrain about the status of research in Bahrain and internationally and gave a detailed description of the Bahrain's National Research Strategy, and Prof Charles Egbu, Dean of the School of Built Environment and Architecture and Co-Chair of the Conference who spoke about the link between innovation and sustainability. Then, three parallel sessions started with 24 presentations on various topics such as construction, sustainable futures, finance, economy, education amongst many others. The first day of the conference was concluded with a panel discussed chaired by Mr Chris Blythe, Chief Executive of the CIOB, with members from



different backgrounds sharing their views on the latest trends in sustainable futures relevant to their respective fields. The panellists were Ms Paula Boast, Mr Christopher Core, Ms Emilia Mateva and Dr Jassim Haji. The guest speaker at the Gala Dinner was Prof Riyad Hamzah who delivered an interesting speech about the future of sustainability.



The second day of the Conference started with keynote speeches by Dr Roy Blatchford from the Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister about the importance of education in creating sustainable futures, and Prof Mustafa Alshawi from Unisearch UK who spoke about Building Information Modelling. Then, another 3 parallel sessions started with 36 presentations presented throughout the day on topics related to culture, HR, Advanced IT in support of sustainability amongst many others.

The Conference concluded with a successful closing ceremony where speakers, members of the organising committee and volunteering students were awarded certificates of appreciation. Speakers presented a total of 60 papers from 20 countries from all over the globe. A total of 65 papers were published in the 730 pages Conference proceedings, which was printed in a hard cover with an ISBN number.



The academic outputs from colleagues of the University who made contributions to the conference are listed below:

1. Ghassan Aouad, Assem Al-Hajj and Charles Egbu, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, Bahrain



2. Assem Al-Hajj and Essam El Chayeb, Effects of green school environment on users' wellbeing and productivity, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

3. Islam Abohela, The fictional story of renewables: A proposition for sustainable future, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.



4. Adel Al-Samman and Faiza Zitouni, Core competencies of academics from students' perspective, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

5. Camelia Camal, Public private partnership and sustainable development in Bahrain, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017

6. Saad Darwash, The role of insurance sector in protecting the GCC economies through risk management practices: Impact of climate change, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0 Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017



7. Hussein Khasharmeh, Perceptions of determinants of auditors fees in Bahraini listed companies – An empirical study, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

8. Ragab Ismail, The importance of the agricultural sector in achieving relative food security in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017



9. Ashraf Abazeed and Moaiad Khder, Mining association rules from XML data techniques, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017

10. Moaiad Khder, Malik Al Zaqebah, Ashraf Abazeed, and Mohammad Saifi, Smart shoes for visually impaired/blind people, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017

11. Mohammed Yousif Abu Keir, Staff perceptions of the link between HR practices and organizational performance: A study of Bahraini private universities, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

12. Saad Darwash, Horiya Aldeeb, Atheela Alazzawi, and Atheer Al Rashid, Critical success elements for small and medium enterprises: Perceptions of entrepreneurs in Bahrain, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017



13. Ahlam Al-Ethawi, Faiza Zitouni and Diana El Hageova, The role of business incubators in supporting sustainable entrepreneurship for women in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

14. Mohammed Assiadi, Structural settlement monitoring using single-epoch relative GPS positioning, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.



15. Raad Kadhum. Use of LDPE and Steel Slag in Hot Mix Asphalt Concrete as Sustainable Construction Material, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

16. Khairi Mohamed Omar, Abdullah Hj Abdul Ghanib, The Effects of Human Resources Practices in Libyan Banks Sector on Client Behaviour Intention to Subscribe In Islamic Finance System, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017.

17. Mahmoud Mawed, Ihab Al Bairam, Assem Al-Hajj, Linking Between Sustainable Development and Facilities Management Strategies: An Integrated Approach for Evaluating the Sustainability of Existing Building in the UAE, Proceedings of the International Conference on Sustainable Futures, ISBN 978-99958-90-36-0, Applied Science University, 26 – 27 November, 2017



I strongly believe that we have run a truly international peer refereed research conference of the highest quality. The feedback we received from participants was overwhelming and very supportive. This wouldn't have happened without a true team effort. I would like to start by thanking Prof Waheeb for his great support and as a token of appreciation the Conference Proceedings was dedicated to him for his vision and tireless efforts in transforming the University and making it truly international.

I would also like to thank Dr Assem for chairing the scientific committee and dealing with all research and academic matters (and a big thank you to our colleagues from the University who were part of the scientific committee and helped with the paper reviewing process) and Dr Faiza for chairing the organizing committee and dealing with all logistical and organizational issues through a detailed project plan and for doing a lot of the running during the 2 days of the conference.

Many thanks are also due to Dr Mohamed Yousif for his continuous support and extra help provided. This conference wouldn't have happened without the great efforts from too many colleagues including Ms Tania, the Conference Coordinator, who helped immensely with the website and publicity materials and VIPs invitations and for the coverage in the English press, Mr Abdulla for dealing with many administrative issues especially the difficult issue of securing visas for all participants and handling all financial issues,



Ms Ruqaya for being the best MC any organization can dream to have and for her interactions with the media and press and for arranging the conference gifts and dealing with participants' accommodation and flights and for organizing the social day, Ms Mariam for dealing with the proceedings of the conference and acting as a single contact during the 2 days conference and by being a true professional throughout the conference, Ms Diana who worked so hard communicating with participants, chasing paper reviews, and producing a draft copy of the conference program and keeping all participants and authors informed about the status of the conference, and Mr Moath who worked really hard on keeping the website up-to-date and some of the technical issues. The aforementioned colleagues were part of the organizing committee and made exceptional efforts to make the conference a great success and they were present throughout the conference, day and night.



Other colleagues who have helped included Mr Rifat, Ms Shadia (especially with the competitiveness trends presentation delivered by the President), Mr Shakir, Mr Fernando, and Mr Francisco from ICT who provided exceptional help, Mr Mohamed Nassar (who represented Mr Abdulla in some meetings), Mr Ashraf, Mr Arafat, Mr Majed, Mr Maan, Mr Yasser, Mr Mohamed, Mr Ibrahim, Mr Goodwin, Mr Ahmad, Mr Absar, Mr Abdulla, Mr Hassan (our security and drivers) from admin and finance, Ms Catherine Hogan for checking some of our English material, Mr Bahaa and Mr Hameed from Marketing and Public Affairs, Ms Ayat for sending the invitations for the opening ceremony, Dr Mohammed AlHamami, Mr Mohamed Najjar and Students Council and anybody else who contributed to the conference.



Special thanks must also go to the chair of sessions at the conference: Dr Assem, Dr Faiza, Prof Mahmoud, Prof Saad, Prof Hilal, Dr Ramzi, Dr Ashraf, Dr Islam, Dr Khairi, Dr Marwan, Dr Adel, and Dr Farzana.

Most importantly, I would like to thank our volunteering students who were our best ambassadors at the conference. The exhibition for Art and Science students organized by Dr Belal and Dr Oday with great help from Dr Faiza and Mr Abdulla was well received by participants. I would like to conclude by thanking our colleague speakers (and others who attended to learn) and congratulating them for presenting some real research generated by the University and to say well done to Dr Islam for winning the best paper on innovation awarded by the CIOB, the Chartered Institute of Building.

Organizing an international conference of the highest quality is not as easy task. However, proper planning and commitment and determination can make a big conference. I am confident that the conference will have a positive impact on students' recruitment and the raising of the University's profile and reputation in the region and internationally.

## THE ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (ASRT) HONORS ASU'S PROFESSOR MAHMOUD ABDEL-ATY WITH INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PRIZE



The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) announced the winners of the State Prizes of Institutions and Individuals on 27 November, 2017. Mahmoud

Abdel-Aty, Professor of Mathematics and Information Sciences and Dean of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies at Applied, Science University, was awarded the Information and Knowledge Management Prize for his Scientific Achievement. Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty has been granted the award for his high impact research published in highly cited international journals and for his contributions and achievements in the Arabic Impact Factor Project. Arab Impact Factor Project yields impressive benefits to individuals and scientific organizations looking for concrete and high impact Arabic journals and Arabic Authors. Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty was very happy to hear such news and states that getting such a high value recognition is a motive and added responsibility to complete the research project that has been started to serve our nation and the scientific community in large in the field of Information Sciences.

Prof. Mahmoud Abdel-Aty, has been elected as a vice-President of African Academy of Sciences two times, elected as a chairman of African Mathematical Union for Math and Education, member of National Committee for International Mathematical Union and chairman of more than 15 International Conferences. He has published more than 197 papers in high impact peer-reviewed international journals and awarded several prizes both national and international. He also serves as an Editor-in-Chief of Applied Mathematics and Information Sciences: An International SCOPUS journal and Editor of more than 20 International Journals.

The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) is a non-profit organization affiliated to the ministry of scientific research in Egypt. It was established in September 1972 by the presidential decree number 2405 as the national authority responsible for science and technology in Egypt. Within this context, ASRT encourages basic and applied research, organizes material and moral incentives, and grants state awards in all branches of science.

## INTERVIEW OF THE WEEK

We would like to feature the interview this week with:



**Name:** Prof Murad Abdalah Bara Aljanabi

**Position:** Professor in Islamic thought and ideology - Department of Public Law

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

I was born in Iraq. Since childhood I have had an interest in general issues of Islamic thought and education. Having finished my undergraduate study, I pursued my graduate study for the master and PhD degrees in Islamic thought and ideology at the University of Baghdad.

I recently got promoted to full Professor at ASU.

In total, I have written 5 books in my area of specialty.

### 2. Tell us about your job at ASU

I joined ASU in 2011 as faculty member in General Studies Department, then in 2014 I moved to the College of Law.

I am currently Professor of Islamic thought and ideology at the Department of Public Law and at the General Studies Department.

## NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON MIGRANTS: BY LABOR MARKET REGULATORY AUTHORITY



Prof Saad Darwish, President's Advisor for Special Projects acted as a moderator for the "National consultative meeting on the International Convention on Migrants" on 27 November at the



Gulf Hotel. The meeting tackled the issues raised by the Head of the Labor Market Regulatory Authority, Mr Osama Bin Abdullah Al-Absi, who said that the Kingdom of Bahrain has taken a number of

steps towards reforming the labor market and protecting expatriate workers without prejudice to the rights of other parties to work, including the freedom of movement of workers to new employers.

The meeting was attended by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs Dr. Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, a number of embassies of major labor-exporting countries, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and a number of representatives of civil society on the rights of migrants and migrant workers and human rights.

## ISO 9001:2015 AWARENESS SESSION



Under the patronage of the Vice President for Administration, Finance and Community Engagement, the university organized on Wednesday, 29 November 2017, an awareness session about the ISO 9001:2015 standard at Abdulla Nass Hall.



The training was delivered by Mr. Hatem Dammak, Coordinator of the ISO

certification project, and was attended by the administrative staff that work at the units/directorates that are part of the certification scope.

### 3. Tell us about your aspirations for the University

ASU is a treasure house of knowledge, religiosity and spreading love and tolerance between students.

### 4. What do you enjoy most about your job?

It's enjoyable and satisfying to me to teach, to be the author of many books and to watch my students grow as learners.

### 5. Tell us about your hobbies

My hobbies are reading, writing poetry and oratory.

### 6. Tell us about your favourite food

Iraqi dishes, especially if my wife prepares them and my favorite food is seafood.

### 7. Tell us about the book you are reading now

"Nafahat alhyat " By Dr. Abdullah Mustafa

### 8. Final words

Science and knowledge need love, peace, mercy and cooperation in order to build our nation.



The session lasted for one hour and a half with a first introductory part that focused on the two main concepts of the ISO 9001:2015 standard:

- 1) The Process approach, illustrated in the very important PDCA cycle (Plan – Do – Check – Act).
- 2) The risk-based thinking, which required the organization to consider the possible risks associated with its operations when planning.

After the introduction, the trainer moved to presenting to the audience the seven auditable areas/clauses of the standard which are Context of the Organization, Leadership, Planning, Support, Operations, Performance evaluation, and Improvement.



The session wasn't all theoretical as Mr. Hatem kept referring to practical examples from the work that has been done by the committee steering the university's efforts to obtain the ISO 9001:2015 certification. There has also been interaction amongst the attendees and a brief Q&A session at the end. Each participant received a printed copy of the ISO 9001:2015 standard in addition to a PDF version sent by email.

Further to this awareness session, the university will engage in a series of audits both internally and in order to assess the readiness status of the various administrative departments under the scope of the ISO certification.

For more information, or to request the training material for your personal development, you can send an email to [hatem.dammak@asu.edu.bh](mailto:hatem.dammak@asu.edu.bh).

### **DR. ROY INVITED TO JUDGE THE 18TH AL MAHDINTER-SCHOOL DEBATE 2017**



In support of ASU's community engagement mission and goals, Dr. Roy D. Tumaneng, Deputy Director of QAAC, has extended his expertise and services once again as judge in the Kingdom of Bahrain's "XIII Al Mahd Inter-School Debate" held on Saturday, 25 November 2017. His 10th time to judge since 2008, the said competition is annually organized by the Al Mahd Day Boarding School in Saar. More than 45 pupils and students from different private schools in the Kingdom of Bahrain participated this year in the said event.



Each of the debaters presented his/ her arguments in a constructive speech for or against the motion, depending on which side he/ she has been assigned. The topic for the junior group was "Character is moulded at home" and for the senior group, "The world is safe without media". Among the schools which took part in the event include the following: Al Rawabi School, Al Wisam International School, Arabian Pearl Gulf School, Creativity Private School, Indian School, New Millennium School, New Vision School, Pakistan Urdu School, Quality Education School, The Asian School, and The New Indian School.

The AMDBS Managing Director, H.G. Sharma, welcomed the delegates highlighting the importance of public speaking for the youth of today. At the end of the competition, trophies were awarded to the Top 3 Best Debaters in each group, and the Running Trophy was awarded to the school which garnered the most number of points.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Teamwork requires some sacrifice up front; people who work as a team have to put the collective needs of the group ahead of their individual interests.”*

**Patrick Lencioni**

 *Happy Reading!* 