



Yarmouk Newsletter

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YU Chairman of the Board of Trustees Sponsors the Opening Ceremony of the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy



The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Khaled Al Omari sponsored the opening ceremony of Princess Iman bint Abdullah II building "Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy", which was established with a financial support from Abu Dhabi Fund for Development- United Arab Emirates, in the presence of YU president Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, and the acting Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates in Jordan, Faisal Al-Malik.

Al-Omari said that educational institutions are always established based on the efforts of their employees and their successive academic leadership, praising YU for the development it has witnessed since its establishment in terms of infrastructure, academic programs, and study plans, adding that this development has made Yarmouk today one of the important universities in Jordan and in the Arab region.

Al-Omari further pointed out that the base of educational institutions is the intellectual heritage that includes

psychological, social and value capital, which can be achieved through arming faculty members and students with a set of values including justice, freedom of thought, making positive changes in societies, and tolerance of opinion, pointing out that the importance of the academic work lies in creating intellectual leadership. He further stressed that Yarmouk family should be a good example of the good citizenship and should pay attention to the behavioral aspects as well as students' values to refine their personalities.

Al-Omari also expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the United Arab Emirates represented by Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, praising the efforts of the academic, administrative and technical cadres that contributed to the establishment of these two faculties, and encouraging students to seek excellence in their studies to maintain the prestigious academic reputation of YU.

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In his speech, president Kafafi, thanked Abu Dhabi Fund for the generous support they provided to Yarmouk, which emphasizes the deep relationship between Jordan and the UAE that was first established between His Majesty King Abdullah II and His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. Kafafi also expressed his appreciation to the acting Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Faisal Al-Malik for the future cooperation he looks forward to establishing a faculty of dentistry and an educational hospital, which shows UAE embassy's interest in developing the educational process in Jordanian higher educational institutions.

Kafafi also pointed out that the building was designed in a way that suits the nature of the disciplines and the academic programs that these faculties offer. The building has classrooms that are designed according to high standards to offer good study environments for students, in addition to the well- equipped scientific labs. He added that YU has sought to attract distinguished academic members in various medical and pharmaceutical disciplines, and has sent outstanding students from Yarmouk to prestigious international universities to pursue their higher education, in addition to strengthening partnership with various medical companies and institutions to provide students with best training opportunities to ensure their readiness for the local, regional and international job markets.

The Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. Sayer Al-Azzam pointed out that Yarmouk University was the first to establish a faculty of pharmacy in the kingdom in 1979, which was then moved to the Jordan University of Science

and Technology in 1986, pointing out that Yarmouk is re-opening it in 2013 with qualified administrative and teaching staff who have graduated from prestigious international universities.

For his part, Dr. Wisam Shihadeh, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said that the building which covers an area of 21,000 square meters, cost 6.5 million Jordanian dinars, and equipped with latest teaching, training and scientific research methods, will be a strong competitor among local and regional universities.

The opening ceremony included a video about the two faculties and the stages of their establishment in addition to a tour in the different facilities of the building.

The opening ceremony was attended by vice presidents, faculties' deans, ex-president, Dr. Abdullah Al-Mosa, heads of departments, faculty staff and students.



Enhancement of Cooperation with Fulbright



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with Rana Al-Anani, the Senior Program Officer at the Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange (Fulbright- Jordanian Programs). The two sides discussed ways of cooperation, and the possibility of YU receiving faculty members from American universities to teach in its various academic departments for a certain period, the possible grants for YU students to study in American universities, and the academic visits of the faculty members.

During the meeting, Kafafi pointed out that YU was one of the first universities to join the Fulbright program, and

a key partner in terms of academic staff exchange and students grants, stressing the need to activate relationships, which contributes to enriching the teaching process at YU and to expertise exchange that have positive impact on students and the university academic status.

The president said that Yarmouk strongly believes in the importance of students' exchange, and faculty members' academic visits, that provide them with opportunities to communicate with people from developed countries, refine their personalities, broaden their knowledge, and stimulate their creative thinking, which, in turn, enable them to make desired positive changes and promote the status of our university and national institutions.

For her part, Al-Anani stressed the keenness of Fulbright in Jordan to activate cooperation with Yarmouk, the first in this field, explaining the opportunities that students and faculty members can benefit from by joining the program.

During her visit, Al-Anani gave a lecture on the scholarships they offer to students who wish to study at American universities for the master's degree, as well as educational exchange opportunities available to faculty members who wish to spend their sabbaticals in one of the American universities or teach Arabic to the speakers of other languages.

Cooperation between YU and Staffordshire University

The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met the international officer of the British University of Staffordshire, Dr. Al Haj Bin Khalifa, to discuss possible avenues of cooperation.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Kafafi confirmed the keenness of YU to enhance research and academic cooperation with distinguished international universities. He added that such cooperation serves the educational process at Yarmouk, offers research opportunities for the teaching staff, and offers study opportunities for the students who wish to pursue their higher education abroad.

Kafafi also praised Staffordshire University's distinguished academic status, one of the first ten universities in the UK, and expressed Yarmouk readiness to cooperate with them in various fields, particularly in the field of engineering by sending YU students to receive higher education there as well as creating joint MA programs in fields of mutual interest.

For his part, Bin Khalifa pointed out that Staffordshire University seeks to expand their cooperation network and build academic partnerships with various countries through the various programs they offer, adding that Staffordshire focuses on the practical side of education to better qualify students for the job market.



Cooperation with the University of Athens



of the University of Athens in Greece, where they discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides in various fields of archaeology and anthropology.

During the meeting, Kafai stressed the keenness of YU to open channels of communication and cooperation with various European educational institutions, which contributes to experience exchange and knowledge acquisition for faculty members and students. He added that YU's administration seeks to encourage faculty members

to attract international projects in various fields to enhance the university's rank and scientific research.

Kafafi expressed his pride of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, and its distinguished faculty members, pointing to the need to strengthen cooperation between the two universities considering the many heritage sites in Jordan that need to be studied to understand the history of humanity and preserve our ancient cultural heritage.

Chlouveraui praised the outstanding academic reputation of Yarmouk, particularly in the field of antiquities and conservation of heritage sources, stressing the keenness of the University of Athens to cooperate with YU in terms of faculty members and students' exchange, conducting joint scientific research and international projects on archaeological sites' maintenance. She added that the University of Athens is ready to receive two more students from Yarmouk in May to study for a semester of their master's degree, in addition to the three students who are currently there.

Graduation of the Second Batch of "HOPES"

The faculties of Information Technology and Computer sciences, and Hijjawi for Technological Engineering at YU organized the graduation ceremony of the second batch of "PFISR" and "TEFSR" projects. The projects are supported by the European Union under the "HOPES" program grant, which is funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund "MADAD" in response to the Syrian crisis, and implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service "DAAD" in partnership with the British Council, Campus France, and the Dutch Organization for Internationalization in Education "Nuffic".

The dean of the Faculty of Information Technology, Dr. Samer Samara and the dean of the Faculty of Hijjawi for Engineering Technology, Dr. Ahmed Al-Shamali, stated that the two projects open new horizons for Syrian students at Jordanian universities, and assist them during and after university education in terms of job's seeking, and career path's building that enable them to cope with their country's crisis and displacement, through transferring basic skills in Web applications, networks, e-commerce, and computer maintenance to Syrian refugees and community members.



The project's manager, Dr. Anas Al-Sobh, said that "120" students were graduated, and more than 50 students were qualified for Training for Trainers (ToT) in accordance with YU's plan to qualify students for the job market and provide them with the necessary knowledge and expertise. The work team of TEFSR, which included Dr. Amani Shatnawi and Dr. Anas Al-Sobh provided practical courses in websites and e-commerce sites' programming. However, The PFISR team work which included Dr. Mohammed Al-Jarrah, Dr. Anas Al-Sobh and Dr. Amin al-Jarrah provided practical courses in computer networks design and maintenance, Web site programming and computer hardware maintenance.

A Delegation from GIZ, Germany Visits University



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met a delegation from the German development agency (GIZ) (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) headed by the manager of the development project in Jordan, Mr. Henning Clark. The meeting comes during their visit to YU to enhance cooperation with the faculty of Physical Education and to carry out a joint project that aims at developing field training courses.

During the meeting, Dr. Kafafi stated that YU is ready to enhance the fruitful partnership with the GIZ. He added that YU is ready to

harness all YU's expertise and competencies to carry out international projects that aim at promoting education at the university.

For his part, Mr. Clark said that the agency is willing to enhance cooperation with YU in various fields, pointing out that the project will contribute to qualifying students with necessary skills and training courses that will help them enter job markets and make positive changes in physical education teaching methods in various Jordanian schools. He also pointed out that the targeted schools in northern Jordan will be equipped with the necessary sports' tools and equipment to develop the educational process.

The dean of the faculty of Physical Education, Dr. Nabil Shamroukh, expressed the faculty's readiness to carry out the project in cooperation with the German agency. He added that this project comes in view of the faculty keenness to qualify students according to recent international teaching methods, to prepare them to apply the skills and knowledge they learn at schools, and to develop their skills. The dean further noted that, under this project, field training courses will be developed, new teaching strategies will be adopted, and advanced training courses will be offered for students.

A Lecture on Refugees' Crisis in Canada

Dr. Anis Khassawneh, vice president of YU, sponsored a lecture titled "The Contemporary Refugees' Crisis in Canada: An Overview of Psychosocial and Social Challenges". The lecture was given by Dr. Jihad Hammad, a Sociology professor at The King's University College, and president of Middle East Studies Institute in Canada, and was organized by The Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk University.

At the beginning of the lecture, Hammad thanked the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center for their invitation considering the consequences that the countries hosting refugees face, particularly Jordan, whose first experience in receiving refugees in the region has been the strongest despite the economic challenges it goes through. He also pointed out that Jordan has been dealing with asylum issues over the years due to its geographical location, which represents a home for most refugees in the region.

Hammad, then, reviewed the services that the Canadian Government provides to refugees and the procedures followed by the Canadian Asylum program, which provides economic, social



and psychological support to refugees for a limited period, provided they sought work that suits them to be productive members of the Canadian society. He also pointed to the psychological pressures that refugees suffer from before, during and after the asylum process, as well as the social pressures they suffer to integrate with host communities.

At the end of the lecture that was attended by the director of the center, Dr. Ayat Nashwan, deans, faculty members, and a crowd of students, Dr. Hammad answered the audience questions.

Cooperation with the German-Jordanian University



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with the vice presidents of the German-Jordanian University, Dr. Atef Kharabsheh and Dr. Dorit Schumann. Means and ways of cooperation between the two universities were discussed.

During the meeting, Kafafi stressed the importance of cooperation among Jordanian universities to establish qualitative academic programs for various degrees to meet students' aspirations and to keep up with the job market's requirements, which in turn, positively impacts the educational process and promotes higher education. He added that YU has strong relationships with various German educational institutions, and that YU is keen to activate cooperation that benefits the university and the students.

Kafafi pointed to the possibility of cooperation in terms of faculty exchange, and students' scientific visits. He also pointed to the possibility of sending students from the Hijjawi Faculty for Engineering to receive training in German institutions with the German-Jordanian University performing as a link. The president added that cooperation can, further, be in terms of conducting joint scientific research, as well as experience's exchange to improve the teaching process in the two universities, and to prepare students with necessary skills to enter the local and Arab job market, praising the academic reputation that the German- Jordanian University enjoys.

For their part, Kharabsheh and Schumann expressed the readiness of the German-Jordanian University to cooperate with YU, which enjoys a distinguished academic reputation in various academic fields, and the possibility of establishing joint programs for the master's degree, particularly in engineering and information technology. They added that cooperation between various Jordanian universities is necessary as it contributes to improving the quality of higher education outcomes in Jordan.

The meeting was attended by Vice president, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni, dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dr. Hani Hayajneh, and officials from the university.

Cooperation between YU and FSMVU

The president of Yarmouk University, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with a delegation from the Turkish University of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf. The delegation included Dr. Bedia Tekin and Dr. Anis Mansour from the University's Department of International Relations. Means and ways of cooperation between the two sides were discussed.

Kafafi expressed the interest of YU to strengthen cooperation with various Turkish higher education institutions to serve the educational process. He reviewed the majors of the various degrees that Yarmouk offers, pointing to the Arabic Program for the Speakers of Other Languages, offered by the Languages Center, which enjoys a good reputation and attracts many students from all over the world on an annual basis.

Kafafi also stressed the importance of continuing cooperation between the two universities in terms of students and faculty exchange. He also pointed that YU students who study Turkish can benefit from the Turkish School Program, which the University of Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakif offers during the summer semester to improve their Turkish language.



For their part, the members of the delegation expressed their university's desire to strengthen cooperation with YU, which enjoys a distinctive academic reputation in the region, through students and faculty exchange programs in the fields of Islamic Sharia, Arabic language, among others.

The meeting was attended by Vice president, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, dean of faculty of Sharia and Islamic studies, dean of the faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, dean of Scientific Research and Graduate studies, Director of Public Relations, and Dr. Ayman Hayajneh from the Faculty of Arts.

BITTCOIN-JO Project Opening Ceremony

Deputizing for the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, the president of YU Prof. Zeidan Kafafi sponsored the opening ceremony of the BITTCOIN-JO program, which comes under the Erasmus+ program supported by the European Union. The program aims at establishing technology transfer centers in higher education institutions in Jordan, and is implemented by YU in collaboration with twelve academic and industrial partners from Jordan and Europe.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Kafafi said that YU strongly believes in the importance of creating effective relationships between academic and industrial sectors. He stressed the importance of benefiting from European universities' experiences in the field of technology transfer and applying them in the Jordanian higher education system. Kafafi then praised the efforts of the project members for their hard work and dedication to ensure the program's success. The president also stressed the keenness of YU to graduate qualified, distinguished, and creative youth energies to be active individuals who can make positive changes in their society. He further pointed out that Yarmouk offers training courses and programs to its employees, students and to the members of the local community in various areas, in collaboration with business and industrial institutions as well as non-governmental organizations and other local or international institutions, pointing out that YU have established several incubators for various companies to provide training opportunities for students and to prepare them to enter the job market efficiently and competently.

For his part, Dr. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, the director of the Erasmus+ office in Jordan, said that the EU-funded Erasmus+ program is a European collaborative program that supports project partnerships, exchange, policy dialogue in education and training, youth and sports, and offers opportunities for higher education institutions, employees and students from all over the world.

Abu-El-Haija further added that the European Union funded 91 collaborative projects in which Jordan participated in the past 15 years: 54 projects within Tempus program and 37 projects within the Erasmus program. Jordan received 16 grants with a share of 38 million euros for implementing the projects. He further noted that, between "2015 - 2018", the international exchange program under the Erasmus+ project provided exchange opportunities for more than 3,000 students and employees who traveled between EU and Jordan for training or educational purposes.



Abu-El-Haija added that YU is a leading institution in Tempus projects since its beginning in Jordan in 2002 with a total of 12 projects, noting that the first Tempus project coordinated by Jordan was applied by YU.

He further stated that Erasmus and Tempus programs helped Jordanian higher education institutions to cooperate with 29 of the 34 countries participating in the program, 9 Arab countries, in addition to Iran and Russia. Such connections helped Jordanian public and private institutions to collaborate with each other, linking academic institutes with nearly 30 ministries, non-governmental organizations and institutions, and enabling thousands of employees and students to travel between Jordan and Europe, which provided a suitable environment for cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the peoples of Jordan and Europe. The program also contributed to the development of Jordanian professors' competences in different areas, and helped Jordanian institutes to develop curricula for BA and MA levels.

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BITTCOIN-JO Project Opening Ceremony - Continued



The project manager, Dr. Mwaffaq Otoom, said that the meeting aims at creating a roadmap for the activities of the BITTCOIN-JO project, which is expected to offer new opportunities for Jordanian researchers, businessmen and industry, adding that the program supports innovations and emerging companies, based on the growing need to invest talented youth in Jordan

Otoom also noted that researchers and academics develop their research outputs into new products and services, pointing out that patents, publishing and marketing of these products, as well as cooperating with the industrial sector have become an urgent need for higher education institutions in Jordan, pointing out the BITTCOIN-JO project is an important step toward achieving these goals.

Otoom further said that the project will contribute to building a new model for technology transfer activities in Jordan through a series of training and capacity-building activities that will be implemented by the Project's Working Group, who will identify the challenges that technology transfer activities and models face to reach the process of research marketing.

Otoom also pointed out that the main product of

the BITTCOIN-JO project will be the establishment of sustainable technology transfer offices at Jordanian universities, which are expected to work with the faculty members and students to market their projects, and patents to establish emerging companies

Otoom then reviewed the opening ceremony's events, which included a lecture on technology transfer by Frank Ohland, the CEO of the professional start company in Germany, a discussion on EU-funded projects results and the challenges they face when carrying them out as INVENT and TEJ projects, a discussion on establishing an effective technology transfer model in Jordan, and a lecture on the financial management of Erasmus+ projects by Dr. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, the director of the Erasmus+ office in Jordan.

The second day will include a meeting for the project partners to discuss financial and technical frameworks and the best implementation practices and will agree on the workplan, results and indicators. The event was attended by Vice president Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni, and a number of deans, faculty members and university officials.

