

Yarmouk Newsletter

Published by The Dept. of Public Relations and Media

Issue No. 6

5th International Conference of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management "Tourism and Peace: Way of Life"



YU president sponsored the opening of the 5th International Conference: "Tourism and Peace: Way of Life", which was organized by the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management.

Researchers from Spain, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Algeria, Palestine, France, Oman, United Kingdom, and Jordan participated in the conference that lasted for three days.

In his speech, president Kafafi stated that the fifth Conference was given the title "Tourism and Peace: Way of life" because tourism means peace, respect and mutual understanding. He added that Jordan has a legacy of ancient civilizations that go back to thousands of years such as those of Ammon, Moab, Greeks, Romans, Nabataeans, Muslim Arabs, and Ottomans, adding that Ain Ghazal statues, the Mesha Stele, Petra, Jerash, and Jadara among others stand as evidence of the sequence of those civilizations.

Kafafi pointed that the Faculty of Tourism in Yarmouk is one of the largest in Jordan, and is heading towards internationalization especially after the Bachelor program

of Tourism Management was accredited by the World Tourism Organization TEDQUAL. He then thanked the faculty administration, teaching staff and students for their efforts to maintain the outstanding reputation of YU locally and internationally.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Shunnaq, the faculty dean, also pointed that the title of the conference was based on the fact that Jordan, which is in the midst of internal conflicts and wars, enjoys peace and security. He added that participants included researchers from various countries, official ministries in Jordan such as the Ministry of Tourism and monuments, Jordan tourism board, Irbid and Jerash cities, and representatives of the local community.

Al-Shunnaq added that organizing this conference came to confirm the relationship between tourism and peace, for tourism promotes peace and acceptance of the other, and peace encourages the flow of tourists to tourist destinations.



5th International Conference of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management "Tourism and Peace: Way of Life" - Continued

In her speech on behalf of participants, Dr. Maria José of Spain, noted that Jordan is a well-known international tourist destination. She praised YU efforts in heritage and tourism research and thanked the organizing committee for this unique academic experience that serves as a good opportunity to exchange ideas, and build new projects that serve tourism.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Issa Qomoh, vice president, Dr. Anis Khasawneh, vice president, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, director of Irbid tourism directorate, Ms. Mashaal Khasawneh, Jerash mayor, Dr. Ali Qoqaza, several deans and faculty members and students.



YU President Meets Representatives of United Nations Development Programme and Jordan Transparency Center



President of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi met with Mr. Anwar Bani Khalifa, a consultant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Ms. Lara Obeid, representative of the Jordan Transparency Center (JTC), and Mr. Omar Al-Akhras, representative of the integrity and anti-corruption Commission. The meeting comes during their visit to YU to implement the third year phase of "Universities against Corruption" initiative, launched by the Centre in twelve public and private universities in 2017.

Kafafi emphasized that Yarmouk supports initiatives that help drive sustainable development, pointing to the importance of raising awareness among students about the concept of corruption and how to address it. He added that corruption can reach legislative matters that affect large segments of citizens,

stressing the need to intensify efforts of various institutions and society members to deal with this phenomenon.

Bani Khalifa thanked YU for their constant cooperation with the UNDP and the JTC, pointing out that the initiative aims at enhancing the concept of integrity and the role of civil society in fighting corruption.

Obeid, for her part, explained that JTC is a non-profit organization registered in the Ministry of Political Development, which is concerned with promoting integrity, good governance and combating corruption through participation and censorship.

Al-Akhras, for his part, thanked YU for cooperating with the Commission during its celebration of World anti-corruption day, which confirms Yarmouk's interest in fighting corruption and promoting the values of integrity and transparency in our institutions and society.

Dr. Issa Shihabat, coordinator of the initiative, also pointed out that Yarmouk was one of the first universities to join the initiative and accomplished outstanding achievements at the Arab national level when students of the Faculty of Law joined.

The meeting was attended by the president's advisor for Media affairs, Dr. Khalaf Al Tahat, director of the department of Presidency, Dr. Mashhour Hamadneh and director of public relations and media, Mr. Mukhlis Al-Ibbini.

A French Delegation Visits Yarmouk

President of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with Dr. Jean-Michel Shapue of the Institute of Research and Graduate studies at the French University of Paris I, and Katrina Clett, attaché of university cooperation at the French Embassy in Amman. Means and ways of academic cooperation between the two sides were discussed.

At the beginning of the meeting, Kafafi pointed out that Yarmouk has a long history of academic cooperation with French educational institutions. He further stressed the importance of activating this cooperation through exchange programs in the framework of the EU-supported Erasmus+ programs. He further pointed out that Yarmouk has already sent 80 students to various EU countries such as Spain and Sweden this semester and invited the French embassy to build bridges of academic and research cooperation between Yarmouk and various French institutions of higher education.

Kafafi confirmed Yarmouk's readiness to renew the memorandum of understanding with the University of Paris I, which provides for joint cooperation in tourism and hotel management, confirming the support of YU's administration to guide specialists from both sides to put forward the idea of Sandwich Degree in hotel management, which is a distinct educational and training opportunity for students



of the Faculty of Tourism at the two universities.

For their part, the delegation confirmed the embassy's willingness to enhance cooperation between French universities and Yarmouk in various fields particularly in tourism and French language. They also pointed to the possibility of increasing the number of student visits to French universities through Erasmus+ exchange program, which constitutes an opportunity to enrich their academic and cultural knowledge.

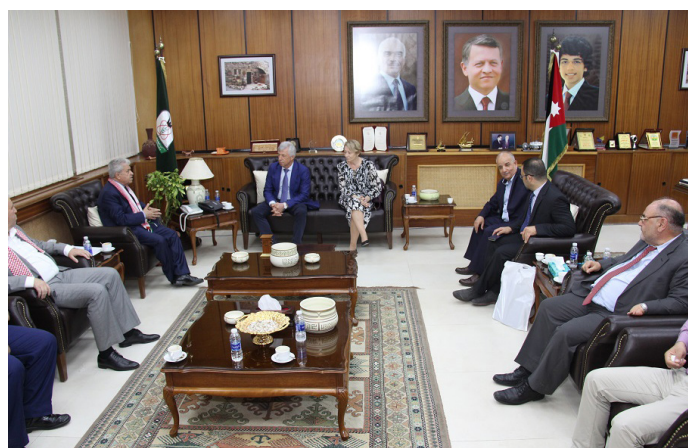
Cooperation with Krimenchuk National University of Ukraine

President of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with the president of Krimenchuk National University of Ukraine, Dr. Mykhaylo Zagirnyak. Means and ways of possible cooperation between the two universities were discussed.

At the beginning of the meeting, Kafafi reviewed the programs and majors that Yarmouk offers, pointing out that they welcome all forms of cooperation with international universities, which serve the educational process, and provide students and academic staff with opportunities to visit Krimenchuk National University and expand their cultural and academic knowledge.

Kafafi added that Yarmouk is ready to cooperate with the Ukrainian University in areas of common interest, noting to the possibility of receiving Krimenchuk's students who wish to learn Arabic at the Languages Center through the program of Arabic language for Speakers of other Languages.

For his part, Zagirnyak praised the outstanding academic level of YU and expressed the aspirations of Krimenchuk



to strengthen cooperation with YU through students and staff exchange programs and to conduct academic research in areas of common interest.

The meeting was attended by vice president, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al- Haq and a number of officials from both sides.

A Visit from the European University- Republic of Macedonia

The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with the general manager of the European University- Republic of Macedonia, Dr. Biljana Andreska-Bogdanovska, and the accompanying delegation where means and ways of cooperation between the two sides were discussed.

During the meeting, Kafafi stressed the keenness of YU to extend bridges of academic cooperation with various international universities, which contributes to expertise and knowledge exchange, and learning about latest teaching methods. Kafafi reviewed the different faculties and the academic programs that Yarmouk offers in various degrees, expressing YU readiness to cooperate with the European University in Macedonia, particularly in applied sciences, engineering, information technology and law, among others, in addition to the possibility of benefiting from their expertise in dentistry, which is to be offered in the near future.

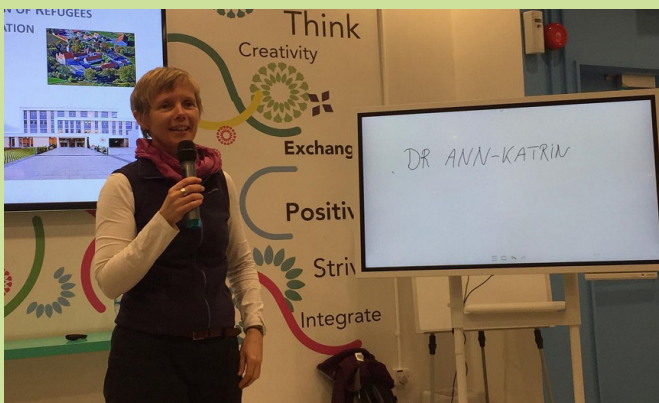
Kafafi also pointed out that Yarmouk has conducted many cooperation agreements with various educational institutions around the world in areas of students and faculty exchange and conducting joint scientific research, proceeding from Yarmouk's belief in their importance for both students and faculty members. He added that such exchange programs enhance students' confidence and provide them with opportunities to know about other cultures and encourage their creative thinking and their seeking of self-development. The



programs also provide academic members with opportunities for experience and knowledge exchange which has a positive impact on the educational process at YU, and helps Yarmouk achieve internationalization.

For her part, Bogdanovska stressed the keenness of the European University in Macedonia to enhance cooperation with YU in various academic disciplines, particularly in basic medical sciences, engineering and information technology, as well as teaching Arabic to the speakers of other languages, given the academic reputation that Yarmouk enjoys in the region, and the outstanding academic competencies it has, pointing to their desire to receive more Jordanian students to study there.

Lecture on the Positive Role of Interpreters in Mental Health Sectors



At the invitation of the translation department at YU, Dr. Annet Bochmann from the University of Hildesheim in Germany delivered a lecture on the psychological and social status of refugees and the positive roles of interpreters in mental health sectors.

In her lecture, Bochmann talked about the German experience in hosting refugees and training interpreters to assist during refugee's psychiatric treatment sessions. Bochmann then trained translation students on the skills that interpreters should acquire for working in such sectors.

At the beginning of the lecture, the head of the department, Dr. Mohammed Obeidat, welcomed the guest, and confirmed that the department has always sought to involve students in various activities and events that improve their translation skills.

Dr. Somaya Al-Qudah, the activity supervisor, pointed out that the department's students need such training since the translator's role is not limited to language skills. She added that interpreting in medical and mental health sectors requires interpreters to receive training in linguistic, cognitive, cultural, psychological and professional domains, considering the continuing need to recruit qualified interpreters to work in international organizations in Jordan.

A Delegation from Erasmus+ Visits University



The vice president of YU, prof. Anis Khasawneh met a delegation from the Erasmus+ office that included Dr. Ammar Al-Maaytah, expert of international relations, and several officials. During the meeting, the two sides discussed how YU can benefit from Erasmus+ projects. The meeting was attended by the director of the Department of International Relations and Projects, Dr. Mwaffaq Al-Otoom.

At the beginning of the meeting, prof. Khasawneh confirmed the importance of enhancing scientific research as well as faculty staff participation in various kinds of international projects, particularly the ones supported by the European Union like Erasmus+ in terms of students exchange or developing higher education, adding that such projects have positive impact on researchers as well as students.

Khasawneh also stressed the keenness of YU, represented by the department of international relations, to enhance international relations with different international academic institutions and to encourage YU academic staff and students to benefit from such programs. He also stressed the importance of cooperation among researchers from various Jordanian universities in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Planning to get fund for scientific projects through Erasmus+, which embodies the principle of partnership among them and enhances their chances for achieving internationalization.

For his part, Al-Maaytah encouraged researchers from different Jordanian universities to apply for the Erasmus+ Fund, pointing out that the budget for the years 2010- 2017 is doubled due to the importance of the projects that have been applied since 2014. These projects, he added, benefited both the EU countries and the Arab countries, particularly the Mediterranean countries, and provided good opportunities for Jordanian universities to build global partnerships and enhance their chances for internationalization.

During their visit, the members of the delegation gave a lecture on the Erasmus+ program for education, training and sport for the period 2010 - 2014. The program provides good opportunities for MA, and PhD students as well as the teaching staff in higher education institutions around the world. In the lecture, Al-Maaytah reviewed the programs and the projects that Erasmus+ is carrying out in Jordan, such as the mobility and exchange program, institutional competences building projects, and virtual exchange program.

Al-Maaytah further explained that the virtual exchange program provides opportunities for young people to connect in safe online facilitated dialogue to discuss current issues that matter to them, develop a better understanding of each other, build meaningful relationships across borders and cultures, and practice important employability skills.



Cooperation Agreement between YU, German and French Goethe-Institute for the Near East Studies, and French Embassy is Renewed



Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, YU president, met with Dr. Michel Mouton, director of the French Institute for Near East Studies in Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, Dr. Falestin Naili, the Institute's official in Jordan, and Ms. Rawan Al-Homaimat, head of cooperation affairs at the French Embassy. During the meeting, the agreement, which was signed with the German Goethe Institut, the French Institute for the Near East Studies and the French Embassy in Amman was renewed to carry out a project on "Oral History in Jordan".

The agreement stipulates implementing a project on oral history

in Jordan, funded by the German-French Cultural Center, the French Institute and the Goethe-Institut, in cooperation with the University Agency of la Francophonie. The project includes collecting oral testimonies on the First World War period from people who heard stories about it, to be collected by students from Jordanian universities: The University of Jordan, Mutah University, Al Hussein bin Talal University, Yarmouk University and the Jordanian National Library.

The project aims at training students and specialists to research oral history. It also aims at establishing a group of young researchers, creating a sense of importance of cultural heritage among them, and providing them with the tools and expertise required for such kind of research, especially that oral testimonies are main sources of history in Jordan as well as means of documenting and analyzing historical awareness of the social groups that experienced that period.

Under this agreement, students from participating universities are to be trained on oral history research by experts of anthropology and history, through several workshops and training sessions.

The signing of the agreement was attended by the dean of the faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, the director of Al Hussein bin Talal library, the director of public relations and media, and several faculty members.

Breakfast Banquet with Students of Arabic Language Program

Organized by the Languages Center, president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, attended a breakfast banquet with international students who are enrolled at the Arabic language program.

In his speech, Kafafi noted that Yarmouk embraces students from more than 40 Arab and foreign nationalities, stressing that Yarmouk, represented by the Languages Center, strives to teach them Arabic as well as Jordanian culture and traditions to enable them to learn faster and to be easily integrated with the local community. Kafafi also praised the Languages Centre's staff for their continuous efforts in teaching Arabic.

The director of the center, Dr. Lamia Hammad, for her part, stressed the importance of cultural openness and pointed out that the Languages Center always seeks to embody meanings of respect and dialogue among different Islamic and foreign cultures. She further noted that the banquet aimed to integrate their students with other students, strengthen relationships among them, and familiarize them with Jordanian traditional dishes.



Students, for their part, thanked the center's administration for offering them with a healthy educational environment, and thanked Yarmouk's administration for organizing extracurricular activities that ensure their involvement in the students' body.

The breakfast banquet was attended by members of the Council of the Languages Centre, a number of university officials, faculty members and officials of the Centre, and 80 students representing Malaysia, China, Korea, America, Spain, Turkey, Australia, Dagestan, and Greece.

Enhancement of Cooperation with (KOICA)



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met with the country director of the Office of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Jordan, Ms. Hyo Jin Kim and the accompanying delegate. During the meeting, the two sides discussed means and ways of cooperation and the possibility of creating a sub-major in Korean language at the modern Languages department.

Kafafi stressed the keenness of Yarmouk to strengthen cooperation with the Korean Agency in various fields, pointing to the possibility of receiving specialists and academics to teach or train in various academic disciplines, especially in communications at the Hijawi Faculty for Engineering.

Kafafi also, praised the agency's support through providing a Korean instructor to teach Korean language courses offered by Modern Languages Department, pointing to the possibility of creating a sub-major in the Korean language.

The president stressed the importance of activating cooperation between the two sides, and increasing opportunities for students and faculty exchange, which enriches students' knowledge and encourages experience's exchange. He also added that YU may send students to be trained in distinguished Korean institutes, particularly in communications, and thanked the agency for the collection of books they gave to Al Hussein Library.

For her part, Kim praised the outstanding academic reputation of YU and expressed their readiness to support the university and take necessary measures to activate cooperation between them, and between Yarmouk and various Korean educational institutions.

The meeting was attended by Vice presidents, Dr. Ahmed Al Ajlouni and Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al- Haq, vice dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Yousef Bader, head of the Dept. of Modern Languages, Dr. Batoul Al-Muheisen, and the director of Public Relations and Media department, Mr. Mukhles Al-Ibbeni.

Lecture on E-Learning Programs Management

The Faculty of Information Technology and Computer Science at YU represented by the dean of the faculty Prof. Samer Samara organized a lecture on E-Learning Programs that was given by Dr. Jeff Bordes and Dr. Maja Zelihic of Astria Learning from the USA.

At the beginning of the lecture, Bordes stated that Astria Learning is concerned with providing online educational needs to help educational institutions that offer e-learning programs achieve education quality and competitiveness. He added that they have already cooperated with 231 educational institutions in more than nine countries, and that Astria is working on examining the customers' needs and developing strategies to help them achieve their institutional goals, particularly with the increased focus on non-traditional programs, such as technical and training certificates, as well as online non-profit programs.

Bordes stressed Astria's keenness to collaborate with YU to offer online programs and courses to help Yarmouk enter the diversified e-learning world with minimum requirements, through marketing, registration, curricula and courses development, and student support and evaluation.



Samara confirmed that YU have sought to activate e-learning programs in line with its plans to establish a specialized center to keep up with technological developments in various fields, noting to the possibility of cooperating with Astria Learning in e-learning programs and courses' management, which helps develop the educational process and enrich students cultural and scientific outcomes through the use of modern teaching methods.

At the end of the lecture, which was attended by the director of the Computer and Information Center, and faculty members, Dr. Bordes answered questions and inquiries from the audience.

"Arab and Foreign Communities' Exhibition" in Yarmouk

President of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, opened the "Arab and Foreign Communities National Heritage Exhibition", organized by the Student Welfare Department in the Deanship of Student Affairs, in cooperation with international students' club. The exhibition, which was opened in the presence of the Indonesian ambassador in Amman, had participants from 17 communities of international students studying at YU, and lasted for three days.

While touring the exhibition's sections, Kafafi stressed the importance of such events in familiarizing students with cultural diversities, and in integrating international students into university.

Kafafi added that the administration of YU takes good care of international students and is keen to provide them with whatever needed to refine their personalities, develop their skills, and introduce their cultural diversity, praising the active role of the Deanship of Students Affairs in organizing the event.

For her part, the dean of students' affairs, Dr. Amal Nseir, said that organizing such events aims at familiarizing YU students with the traditions of the participating countries, thus providing them with opportunities to learn about their culture, touristic sights and history.

The president of international Students' Club, Yaqoub Al-Rifai from Kuwait, praised the efforts of YU in providing international students with the academic atmosphere, as well as integrating them with the students' body.



The students' communities that participated in the exhibition represented the countries of Turkey, Thailand, Indonesia, Syria, Singapore, America, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen, Iraq, Kuwait, Malaysia, China, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine. The exhibition included posters, photographs of tourist and religious places, popular cuisines, traditional and folk costumes, ceramics, silverware, straw works, brass, and popular perfumes and incense from Arab countries. It also included designs of cultural monuments, cultural and art performances and folkloric songs.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by deans and officials at the university and a crowd of university students.

It is worth noting that international students account for 10% of Yarmouk students, representing 43 Arab and foreign nationalities.

