



Yarmouk Newsletter

Published by The Dept. of Public Relations and Media

Issue No. 2

Kafafi Inaugurates Archeology Conference on Water



On behalf of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, President of the Royal Scientific Society, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi inaugurated Adumantu Journal III conference under the title "Water through the Ages in the Arab World in Light of Archaeological Discoveries" which was organized by AbdulRahman Al-Sudairy Cultural Center in Saudi Arabia. The conference took place in Jordan Museum on Oct. 10th and included the presentation of 34 papers.

During the opening ceremony, Kafafi delivered a speech and stated that the oldest human remains in our Arab world go back to more than a million years

during which man left cultural and civilizational prints that emphasize the civilized dimension, and he stated that the Arab world witnessed the beginning of writing and alphabets, the establishment of cities and states, trade, emergence of religions, and the appearance of apostles and prophets. Kafafi added that the conference deals with an important topic; the available water resources in the Arab world in light of archaeological discoveries and the most important world civilizations emerged on the banks of rivers such as the Mesopotamia, Nile, Sindh and King. He finally thanked the officials in Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy

Cultural Center for choosing Jordan as the venue for this conference as well as the scientists who participated in the conference.

The President of the Conference, Chairman of the editorial board of Adumantu Journal Dr. Khalil bin Ibrahim Al-Maaqil said that this conference aimed at highlighting the aquatic techniques used by humans throughout ages through archaeological research and identifying the environmental influences that contributed to affect the water resources through showing examples from archaeological sites, providing an opportunity to meet with specialists in archaeological and environmental studies, and offering future research depictions. He focused on the universality of the conference since it holds scientists and experts in archaeological studies representing Arab and international universities and institutions in addition to experts from Jordanian and Saudi universities.

The Director of Abdulrahman Al-Sudairy Cultural Center, Hussein bin Ali Al-Khalifa, stated that this scientific forum is in line with the center's objectives, which call for supporting the scientific and cultural movement in addition to research and scientific studies.

Erasmus+ Director in Jordan Visits Yarmouk



The president of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi met Erasmus+ Jordan office Director Dr. Ahmad Abu El-Haija to discuss the procedures of implementing projects funded by Erasmus+ and carried out by Yarmouk University.

Kafafi highlighted the keenness of Yarmouk University to encourage students and faculty and administrative staff to participate in Erasmus+ projects funded by the European Union; including student exchange and capacity building programs. He added that it is essential for universities to raise awareness regarding the scientific research in various scientific, medical, literary and human aspects.

Abu El-Haija praised the advanced level of projects submitted by Yarmouk University researchers supported by Erasmus+ and explained that the plan of 2014 - 2020 are focused on student exchange and capacity building in higher education; he referred to the need for a committee in the University that includes the Vice President, the Dean of the faculty concerned and the Director of International Relations Office; this committee will select participants in the student exchange projects and apply the selection criteria for both receiving and sending parties with integrity, transparency and equality. Abu El-Haija further explained the mechanisms and conditions

for selecting projects and he ensured that all the projects implemented at universities are institutional rather than personal projects, and that they aim to enhance the capacities of these institutions, to develop the abilities of employees and to equip laboratories and scientific facilities with necessary equipment.

The meeting was attended by Vice Presidents Prof. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni and Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, Dean of the Faculty of Science Prof. Nihad Yusuf, Dean of the Faculty of Arts Prof. Mohammed Bani Doumi, GEO4D coordinator Dr. Rana Al-Jawarneh, the Director of International Relations and Projects Dr. Mwaffaq Ootom and the Director of Public Relations Mr. Mukhles Al-Ibbeni.

During their visit to the University, Abu El Haija and Dr. Rima Al Khader met the research team of "Geodesy and Geoinformatics for Sustainable Development in Jordan GEO4D" project to follow-up on implementing the project and to provide advice for some aspects; further, the research team plans to establish three scientific laboratories in Geodesy and GIS at Jordanian universities, three MA programs, and to activate e-learning in order to achieve quality assurance in teaching Geodetics.



U.S. Embassy in Amman Visits Yarmouk

Prof. Zeidan Kafafi welcomed a delegation from the US Embassy in Amman, which included the Cultural Affairs Officer Peter Neisuler Ilschuler, the Counselor for Public Affairs, Adrienne Nutzman, and the Cultural Affairs Specialist, Ruba Hattar on Oct. 13

Kafafi pointed to the cooperation between Yarmouk University and several US Higher Education Institutions through several research projects, and exchange programs of students and faculty members. He added that the University is interested in expanding cooperation through scholarships, lectures and workshops on educating students with exchange programs, and study opportunities. He further announced that the university in collaboration with the US



embassy intends to hold a corner for the American culture in Al-Hussein bin Talal Library. He also called for attracting US faculty members to teach in the faculties of Yarmouk university.

The delegation members focused on the intention of the US embassy in supporting the cultural and academic exchange programs between various American universities and Yarmouk University and

clarified the various grants presented by the embassy and its procedures for setting the US cultural corner. They presented a lecture on the academic and cultural exchange programs dedicated for the students of Yarmouk University in addition to a lecture for the students of English Language and Literature on American literature presented by Peter Neisuler and Ruba Hattar.

British Delegation Visits Yarmouk

The President met the «Newton-Khalidi Fund» officer Dr. Giathri Warna Suria, and Dr. Fiona Butters from the British Embassy in Amman to discuss procedures for benefitting from the fund grants.

At the meeting, Kafafi focused on the interest of researchers at the university in conducting outstanding research projects supported by various international agencies in different fields of study which would positively reflect on the career and knowledge of researchers. He stated that the cooperation between the university and Newton-Khalidi Fund would provide an opportunity for researchers in both Jordan and UK to collaborate in the field of research and joint scientific projects and pointed to the need of reconsidering procedures for providing support for Jordanian researchers.

Giathri pointed that the fund is ready to reconsider the procedures of support since she is interested in attracting the largest number of researchers to benefit from grants offered by the fund stressing the importance of benefiting from the expertise of Yarmouk's distinguished researchers in various fields of science. Further, she presented a lecture to a number of faculty staff members about the establishment of the "Newton



Fund" pointing that the fund located in Jordan was called "Newton-Khalidi Fund" to celebrate the Jordanian Biochemist Dr. Osama Al-Khalidi. Giathri added that the fund under the supervision of the British Cultural Board and in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education launched a new research link that aims to focus on five areas identified by the Ministry as priorities for long-term sustainable development in Jordan including: water sustainable management, renewable energy, sustainable food production, biotechnology and biosecurity, and nanotechnology. The program supports Jordanian universities and Jordanian researchers through linking them with British partners to provide grants from the Newton-khalidi Fund.

University of Strathclyde Visits Yarmouk



President Prof. Zeidan Kafafi welcomed a delegation from the faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Strathclyde. The delegation included Dr. Ibrahim Khadra and Dr. Robin Plaven who discussed cooperation between the faculties of Pharmacy in both universities with the president.

Kafafi confirmed the attention paid to the faculty of Pharmacy which was recently established, through

providing it with all the needed equipment for the educational process in the faculty and through attracting qualified faculty members, and holding agreements with international universities. He also affirmed the need to strengthen cooperation with the University of Strathclyde in pharmacy through the exchange of faculty members and students between the two universities, and the possibility of establishing a joint Master program between the two universities in Pharmacy.

Khadra stated that the University of Strathclyde has about 22,000 students and is considered one of the first 250 universities worldwide, and he asserted that the University of Strathclyde is ready to enhance cooperation with Yarmouk University in pharmacy through a memorandum of understanding that would give an opportunity to share experiences and knowledge among academics from both sides. Khadra pointed that 50 grants are provided annually for students wishing to precede their studies, which will give a chance for Yarmouk students to benefit from these grants.

Cooperation with Michigan State University

The president welcomed an American delegation that included Dr. Farha Abbasi from the College of Medicine at Michigan State University and Mr. Steve Olweean, the Director of Common Bond Association to discuss means of developing the joint training program between the two universities in the field of social work and mental health on Oct. 23rd.

During the meeting, Kafafi stated that the University seeks to enhance its scientific and research cooperation with prestigious international universities in various academic fields including the American University of Michigan which has a prestigious international reputation through developing the training program in cooperation with the American Association of Common Bond that includes students of the faculties of Medicine and Sharia and Islamic Studies. This program succeeded in attracting students since 2016 until now. Kafafi also indicated referred to the possibility to create a joint MA program in medical specializations such as public health and allow students from the Faculty of Medicine at the University to study



and to have training at the MSU.

Members of the delegation also praised the efforts of Queen Rania Center for Jordanian Studies and Community Service and the Department of Sociology and Social Service in implementing a training program on social work and mental health that would lead to a cooperation agreement that would be beneficial for students studying in the faculties of Medicine and Sharia and Islamic Studies.

Faculty of Archology and Barcelona University Religion Lectures

Drawing on the philosophy of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University that aims to open up to regional and international universities and institutions and to enhance cooperation in the fields of antiquities, heritage and inscriptions through Erasmus+ program, Dr. Rocio Dareva from the University of Barcelona, Spain presented lectures at the Faculty of Archaeology on the ancient religions of the Near East in the period between 28 - 31 / 2018.

The lectures focused on the ancient Near East religions in the early periods since the Neolithic period, through the Copper Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age in Mesopotamia, the Levant and Jordan, the Nabatean religions and temples of the Arab island before Islam, as well as discoveries in Mesopotamia, Levant, Southern

Turkey, Northern Syria and Jordan.

The Vice Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology Prof. Atef Shiyab stated that the faculty is continuously working on holding such important meetings and lectures for both students and faculty staff members. He further added that such lectures are in line with the study plans of the faculty in order to have qualified students for the job market by giving them the required knowledge and skills and by informing them about the latest discoveries and developments in the fields of antiquities, inscriptions and heritage. Shiyab also stated that the faculty has distinguished scientific and cultural relations with many international institutions and universities concerned with antiquities, inscriptions, museums and heritage.

Cooperation with Stavropol State Medical University

Vice president Prof. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni discussed possible cooperation with the President of Stavropol State Medical University in Russia, Prof. Kshel Vladimir on Oct. 17.

Al-Ajlouni stated that the university has recently established two academic programs of Medicine and Pharmacy, pointing to the University's keenness to appoint distinguished faculty members and provide the latest equipment needed for the educational process; he also referred to the possibility of sending distinguished students to pursue their studies at prestigious international universities in the medical field. Al-Ajlouni also expressed Yarmouk's readiness to cooperate with Stavropol State Medical University in Russia through the exchange of faculty members and scientific expertise between the two sides, as well as the possibility of receiving some students to be trained for two months.

In his turn, Vladimir expressed Stavropol's willingness to collaborate with Yarmouk University in the medical field through the exchange of students and faculty members. He added that the University was founded 80 years ago and it is specialized in medical education with 6,000 male and female students representing different nationalities, including Jordanian.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Wisam Shihadeh, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and a number of officials.



Cooperation Agreement with the Doha Institute



An agreement of cooperation was signed on Oct. 18 between Yarmouk University and Doha Institute for Graduate Studies represented by Dr. Yasser Maali regarding receiving graduate students from Yarmouk University with the presence of Vice Presidents Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, Prof. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni and Prof. Anis Khassawneh as well as Dr. Muhannad Al-Mubaidin.

The agreement provides that distinguished BA students would be able to pursue their postgraduate studies in social and

human sciences, public administration, development economics, psychology and social work, conflict management and humanitarian work at the Institute; the agreement also indicated that the Institute allocates grants to Yarmouk students annually to cover tuition fees, accommodation, and health insurance, and that a committee would be appointed to study nominations and to conduct interviews with candidates.

Kafafi stated that the agreement provides an opportunity for students of the University to study in such an institute with a distinguished academic reputation. On the other hand, Al-Maali praised the prestigious scientific reputation of Yarmouk University at the Arab level and added that the Institute intends to increase the number of Jordanian students studying there. He also presented information about the establishment of the Institute which offers 17 MA programs in social, human and administrative sciences, adding that they aim to establish Master and PhD programs in human rights.

A Visit from Oman College of Management and Technology

The chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman College of Management and Technology Hussein Al Saleh was welcomed by the President of the University on Oct. 10 where a number of technical and academic issues related to the partnership between the two sides were discussed.

Prof. Kafafi affirmed the keenness of Yarmouk University to develop the academic process at Oman Collage especially after the potential study of decreasing the number of BA teaching hours in line with the laws followed by the Omani Ministry of Higher Education that would lead eventually to an increase in the number of students wishing to study in Oman College. On the other side, Al-Saleh expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Yarmouk University in supporting Oman College and



pointed that they are in the process of developing a number of academic programs.

Cooperation with KOICA



the project that aims to a comprehensive development of the master plan in the field of special education.

At the beginning of the meeting, Kafafi welcomed the delegation and stated that the university aims to strengthen its cooperation with the Korean International Cooperation Agency, especially through developing the MA program in the field of special education since it pays great attention to the applied aspects; he further praised the efforts of researchers participating in the project.

The president of Yarmouk University met a delegation from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) that included the agency's regional Vice President and a number of researchers participating in the project to discuss the procedures for the second round of the feasibility study of

Members of the delegation also indicated that a National Special Education Center will be established at Yarmouk University with eight advanced technology-supporting laboratories in the field of special education with an estimated cost of 3.5 US million \$ for implementing the first phase of the project.

Yarmouk Holds IEEEExtreme



The students' branch of IEEE "Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers" at Hajjawi Faculty for Engineering hosted the 12th edition of IEEEExtreme Global Programming competition that lasted for 24-hours.

Further, the Dean of the faculty Prof. Ahmad Al Shamaly and the Dean's Assistant for Quality Control Dr. Yazan Al-Issa



supervised the competition and provided all the necessary equipment for 160 contestants representing 14 Jordanian universities with the support of more than 40 volunteers who worked around the clock, noting that Princess Sumaya University ranked 4th and 8th in the world among 4000 participating teams.

QS: Yarmouk Ranked 33 among Best Arab Universities

According to QS Global Ranking, Yarmouk University ranked 33 among the best Arab universities and ranked third locally for 2019. This great ranking came from the efforts of all its members to achieve the ambitions that the University seeks to reach.

The University achieved this prestigious rank as a result of meeting the criteria of ranking including academic reputation which constitutes 30% of the evaluation and depended on a questionnaire distributed to international well-known academics and 20% for the criterion of the employment reputation of graduates.

It is noteworthy that 250 Arab universities were evaluated in this ranking, of which 120 universities were selected; University of Jordan ranked 9th, the University of Science and Technology ranked 14th, Yarmouk University ranked 33, and the Hashemite University ranked 38th.

Cooperation with Kuwait University

The president of Kuwait University, Dr. Hussein Al-Ansari accompanied by Mr. Khalid Hamdan from the Kuwaiti Cultural Mission in Amman visited Yarmouk to discuss scientific and academic cooperation between the two sides.

In the meeting, both sides focused on the importance of academic exchange of faculty staff members, holding conferences of mutual interests, and participating in supervising scientific research provided by MA and PhD students. Al-Ansari expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the faculty of Media at the University with the University of Kuwait regarding launching a Master's program in journalism that meets the aspirations of Kuwaiti youth.

