



Yarmouk Newsletter

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Congratulations!!! TedQual Granted to YU's Tourism



On behalf of the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, the Secretary General of the Ministry, Mr. Issa Gammoh sponsored the ceremony of YU receiving the Tourism Education Quality "TedQual" certification, which is recognized by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The ceremony was organized by the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management in cooperation with the Tourism Project of Promoting the Economic Sustainability in Jordan funded by the United States Agency for International Development, in the presence of the president of the University. In his speech, Gammoh congratulated the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management and YU for receiving the Tedqual certificate, which represents a great promise for the career future of the students in light of Jordan's severe need for highly qualified and trained human resources in tourism industry. The president pointed out that the University's visions are consistent with those of the Ministry, adding that tourism

employment depends on the quality and human resources available to produce competitive graduates who meet the changing needs of the market. Gammoh also stated that a significant growth in the tourism industry is expected in Jordan, and that they look forward to seeing more universities and colleges following YU in offering tourism education. He finally called on YU to proceed with the conclusion of the memorandum of understanding with the Ministry for the purpose of linking education in the fields of tourism and antiquities with educating the local community as well as disseminating the concepts of respect for cultural heritage in Jordan. For his part, Dr. Kafafi expressed his happiness for the great achievement of the Faculty of tourism's in receiving the TedQual, which is considered the world's highest degree for tourism education. He also expressed his pride of YU as the first Jordanian university to receive this

prestigious award for a bachelor's degree in Tourism Management.

Dr. Kafafi also pointed that YU had applied for a grant from the US Agency for International Development to improve the quality of the Tourism program to meet the TedQual standards. To achieve that, many workshops were organized during the last three years to develop the knowledge and skills of the faculty members. At the end of his speech, the president thanked the support of the US Agency for International Development, Dean and faculty members of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management.

In his speech, Dr. Mohammed Al-Shunnaq, the Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management, spoke highly of the great achievement of the faculty, referring to the beginnings of the faculty in 2011 and how, ever since, it has had bilateral agreements with employers in the local market to provide students with training opportunities that help develop their personal and professional skills. He added that the faculty offers two programs: a BA in Tourism Management, and a MSc in Tourism, taught by qualified faculty staff. Al-Shunnaq finally thanked the president, and he thanked the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for their interconnected support. He also thanked the faculty members and the members of the local community.

At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by vice presidents, college deans, faculty members, and officials from the Ministry of Tourism and the University, Gammoh handed the Tedqual certificate to the president of the University.

French Ambassador Visits YU and Meets Students



The president of YU received the French ambassador, David Bertolotti, and discussed possible ways of academic and cultural cooperation between YU and French educational institutions.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Kafafi expressed the willingness of YU to enhance their academic relations with French universities such as the University of Lyon for the distinguished reputation it enjoys at the international level. He also invited the French embassy to cooperate with YU through exchange programs, conducting joint scientific projects, and providing training opportunities for the University's students and faculty staff.

Dr. Kafafi also pointed out that the Department of Modern Languages at YU is one of the leading departments to teach French language, referring to the possibility of establishing a

French corner at Al Hussein bin Talal Library that offers books on French language, culture and civilization, to spread awareness among YU students who wish to pursue their studies in France.

Bertolotti, for his part, expressed the keenness of the French embassy to promote academic cooperation between YU and French universities in French Language, law, tourism and media. He also expressed their willingness to facilitate sending YU students to French universities via scholarships and stressed the importance of learning French by YU students because of the growing number of French companies that operate in Jordan, adding that such companies take good care of their members and send them to different parts of the world to learn about the experiences of professionals in their field of work.

During his visit, the French ambassador had a meeting with the faculty members and the students of the Department of Modern Languages, in which Dr. Batoul Al-Muhaissen, the head of the department, reviewed the department's visions and achievements and introduced the MA program that starts next semester.

The meeting was attended by the vice president of the University, deans of the Faculties of Arts, Tourism, and Media, Head of the Department of Modern Languages, the Director of the Department of International Relations and Projects, the Director of the Dept. of Public Relations and Media, and several officials from the embassy.

Tour Guides: Occupational Standards and Professionalism Workshop

In cooperation with the French Embassy in Amman, the Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, and the Faculty of Arts at YU organized a workshop entitled: "Tour Guides: Occupational Standards and Professionalism."

In his opening speech, the dean of the Faculty of Tourism, Dr. Mohammed Al-Shunnaq stressed the importance of tourism industry and the role of the tourist guide that connects the local community with the touristic site and tourists. Dr. Al-Shunnaq added that the tour guide presents the true cultural image of Jordan, and that, in turn, enhances the tourists' confidence in Jordan and encourages them to visit the different touristic sites.

Al-Shunnaq said that the workshop is academic and focuses on exchanging ideas and experiences among scholars, tour guides and tourism professionals through the papers they present. At the end of his speech, Al-Shunnaq expressed his sincere thanks to the university administration and to the organizing committee of the workshop.

For his part, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Mohammad Bani Doomi, described the tourism sector as one of the most important sectors in Jordan, that promotes and supports the national economy. He stressed the importance of the tour guide and the importance of conducting research, which contributes to solving problems that



face the tourism sector in Jordan.

Mr. Mohammed Al Hammad from the Jordan Tour Guides Association (JTGA) commended YU for their role in teaching tourism at the Faculty of Tourism by the distinguished faculty members. He also commended the role of the Department of Modern Languages that teaches French, which contributes in increasing the number of tourist guides who speak French, noting that the number of French-speaking tourist guides is 200 out of 1200 .

The workshop included a scientific session on various topics related to tourism as well as a roundtable, in which participants discussed the professional standards of the tourist guide, how to improve them, and how to improve the working conditions of tourist guides.

The American University of Purdue Visits Yarmouk



The president of YU, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, met with a delegation from the American University of Purdue, represented by Dr. Kory Cooper, Dr. Allen Greenbaum and Dr. Michael Boson. Possible avenues of cooperation between the two parties were discussed.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Kafafi reviewed the majors YU offers in its different scientific and human faculties, stressing the importance of enhancing cooperation with international universities to exchange educational experiences among faculty staff members, and to provide students with opportunities to pursue their graduate studies through exchange programs. The president

also pointed to the possibility of conducting joint research and scientific projects in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, tourism and hotels, engineering, pharmacy, and medicine.

For their parts, the members of the delegation expressed the willingness of Purdue University to cooperate with YU in various fields, particularly in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, and tourism and hotel management for their direct connection with projects dealing with cultural heritage and civilization.

The members of the delegation also reviewed the many majors that Purdue University offers in scientific, medical and human fields in addition to the multidisciplinary degrees that combine more than one major such as biomedical engineering.

The meeting was attended by Vice Presidents of the University Prof. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni and Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dr. Wisam Shihadeh, Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Prof. Hani Hayajneh, the Director of the Department of International Relations and Projects, Dr. Mwaffaq Ootom, and the Director of the Department of Public Relations and Media, Mr. Mukhles Al-Ibbeni.

Memorandum of Understanding with Questscope

The president of YU, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, and the representative of the Questscope for the Social Development in the Middle East, Dr. Majdi Al Qorom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU aimed at holding cooperation between the two sides to implement a project entitled "Youth's persistence to enhance joint participation between host communities and refugees to build peace and to support local development". Funded by the European Trust Fund "Madad" in partnership with World Vision, the project aims at creating social support centers that target Jordanian and Syrian children in civil institutions who are "at risk".

The MOU also aims at building the capacity of the Jordanian youth in general and the students of Jordanian universities, in particular, through founding volunteer clubs within the program of "Al-Sadeeq". The program targets juveniles benefiting from the social defense centers and institutions of the Ministry of Social Development (convicts and detainees), and children aged (12 - 18) who are at risk.

The MOU also aims at promoting the concept of volunteering in local community institutes through crowding volunteers and training them, and at enhancing the abilities and skills of volunteering students to be able to work with the children "at risk".

The president stressed the desire of YU to enhance cooperation with various civil institutes, particularly those that support children and vulnerable groups. The president also pointed that signing such a memorandum would provide training opportunities for the students of the departments of Psychological Counseling and Special Education in the Faculty of Education, in addition to providing a



platform for postgraduate students to carry out research studies in this field.

For his part, Al Qorom said that the association is keen to reactivate their cooperation with YU after the success of the previous experience they had with them. He also added that according to the memorandum, a social support center will be founded at the University to train students. In his speech, Al Qorom stated that the association is a non-governmental and non-profit institution that was established in the UK in 1988 and started work in Jordan in 1994 as an international association under a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Social Development. The association targets poor and marginalized groups in society and works on implementing a number of educational and developmental programs in various regions of Jordan with the aim of improving the quality of life and alleviating the burdens and pressures suffered by the groups most in need in society.

The University of Cambridge Visits Yarmouk



The President of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi met a delegation from the University of Cambridge, which included Ramiz Haddadin, the Cambridge English Regional Commercial Head in the Middle East, Turkey, Africa, South and Central Asia, and Jane Al-Qus, the director of Business development for the Cambridge English exams in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait and Lebanon. During the meeting, future plans of cooperation were discussed.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. Kafafi stressed the

keenness of YU to cooperate with the prestigious university of Cambridge in various academic and research fields that positively impact the educational process at the university, as well as the faculty members. Dr. Kafafi also expressed the readiness of YU to consider the proposal of Cambridge for applying the "Linguaskill", a program prepared by the University of Cambridge to accurately measure the students' English language skills.

For his part, Haddadin explained that the "Linguaskill" measures students' English language skills through several levels, starting from the easiest to the most difficult: "Pre A1, A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2". He also stated that, upon the completion of the exams, students receive a certificate from the University of Cambridge.

Haddadin also pointed to the possibility of enhancing cooperation between the two parties through a memorandum of understanding that aims at conducting joint research among the faculty members of both universities.

The meeting was attended by Prof. Yousef Bader, the deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Dr. Lutfi Abulhija, the head of the Department of English Language and Literature.

MOU with the IEEE



The president of YU, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chairman of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in Jordan, Dr. Ghaith Abanda. The purpose of the MOU is to agree on a work mechanism for organizing the 5th International conference for Medical Engineering in the Middle East and Africa in 2020.

Kafafi expressed the keenness of YU to promote positive engagement with national institutions in all fields, to employ

its academic and scientific experiences to develop the local community, and to use technology to improve the services provided to community members. Dr. Kafafi added that the University gives its full attention to employing science in serving humanity. He stressed that YU continuously works on integrating sciences to provide appropriate solutions to community issues and provide quality services to community to serve humanity.

For his part, Abanda thanked YU for their cooperation in organizing the conference, which aims at encouraging scientific research in medical engineering, and using engineering to serve medical fields, especially with the tremendous scientific and technological development of the present day. Abanda also praised the good reputation that YU enjoys in teaching engineering.

The signing of the memorandum was attended by Vice presidents, the dean of the Hijawi Faculty for Engineering Technology and a number of officials from both sides.

Seminars on Asylum and Forced Migrations



The president of YU, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi sponsored the opening ceremony of a series of academic seminars on asylum and forced migrations, entitled "Asylum and Forced Migrations: Academic Viewpoints ". The seminars were organized by the Refugees, Displaced persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at YU in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). 26 faculty members from different academic departments of YU participated in the seminars.

During the opening session, Dr. Kafafi pointed out that Jordan has received many human migrations throughout history. He added that human migrations started in the

old ages, giving the example of the one that occurred 9000 years ago, when so many people migrated from the west bank of the River Jordan to the east bank due to climate change. The new comers had settled and built villages that are now more than 8000 years old. The president further expressed his happiness and pride of the number of participants, which shows their interest in such an important issue. At the end of his speech, Dr. Kafafi thanked Friedrich Nauman Foundation for their effective cooperation.

The Director of the Refugees, Displaced persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at YU, Dr. Ayat Nashwan, for her

part, thanked the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom for providing fund for the seminars that deal with asylum issues from academic perspectives. Dr. Nashwan also referred to the different departments that participated in these seminars represented by the good number of scholars from the departments of Modern Languages, translation, Geography, Sociology, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Political Sciences and History.

The seminars included papers on risk readings, changes of identity, refugee women, sources of information among refugees in Jordan, education, immigration policies and the European position, the trauma of asylum in literature, the ideology of the Jordanian Islamic, national State and its impact on hosting Refugees, and International attitudes towards Refugees.

The opening session was attended by the project manager at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Constanze Sturm, vice presidents Prof. Anis Khassawneh and Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, deans, faculty members and a number of students.

First Batch of "Isma'ni" Participants Graduated!!!

In the presence of President Prof. Zeidan Kafafi and the Dutch ambassador in Amman, Barbara Joziassé, the executive director of the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Farah Daghestani, sponsored the graduation ceremony of the first batch of students participating in Isma'ni "Listen to me" program. The program is implemented by the International Foundation for Research and Exchange in Jordan (IREX) in cooperation with the Faculty of Mass Media in the University and the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development. The program is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Dagestani stressed the importance of educating youth on how to properly use their talents through providing them with specialized courses and workshops, like that of "Isma'ni".

Dr. Kafafi stated that Jordan has qualified human resources that lead to success, and that the graduation of this batch is a proof for



the efficiency and excellence of YU students. He also spoke of the effective role of media in the present time, and how YU pays extra attention to it.

Bilal Al-Khasawneh, a member of the Advisory Committee of the program, said that the advisory and Guidance Committee have provided students with advice and counseling and encouraged them to produce programs in a way that serves the local community.

YU Hosts "History and Architecture Diwan"



Vice President Prof. Anis Khassawneh inaugurated a workshop entitled "History and Architecture Diwan", organized by the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University, and the French Institute for the Near East in cooperation with the German University of Jordan, the Department of General Monuments, the French Embassy, the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the British Research Institute and the German Protestant Institute of the Monuments of the Holy Land, in the presence of Vice President Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq.

Dr. Khassawneh welcomed the participants in this interactive workshop, dedicated to presenting papers by graduate students to encourage them to do research. He also called other faculties of YU to follow the Faculty of

Archaeology and Anthropology in this respect.

For his part, the Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Prof. Hani Al-Hayajneh said that the workshop aims at raising awareness about research in architecture and antiquities in Jordan, noting that this workshop is a platform for presenting the research of a group of distinguished graduate students, who they are proud of. The dean called on educational and research institutions to invest the creativity of their youth.

Dr. Suazik Bashtwal, from the French Institute for the Near East, said that the workshop is designed to promote research opportunities between the European and Jordanian universities in the field of antiquities and architecture in Jordan. She added that the workshop is a unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience, and an opportunity for the students to benefit from the participating educational and research institutions.

The workshop consisted of three sessions: the first was headed by Dr. Maher Tarboush, the second was headed by Dr. Abd Al-Rahim Ahmad and the third was headed by Dr. Ahmad Abu Dalo.

The opening session was attended by the Dean of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Qasim Hamouri, a number of faculty members, and students at the Faculty of Archeology.

Professor Myriam Salama-Carr Gives a Lecture at YU

At invitation of the Translation Department, Professor Myriam Salama-Carr, a professor of Translation Studies at the University of Manchester gave a lecture on "Languages and Conflict" at YU in the presence of Vice President Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq.

At the beginning of the lecture, the head of the Translation Department, Dr. Mohammed Obeidat, welcomed Dr. Salama-Carr and asserted the keenness of the Department to educate their students on translation issues, which could enhance their academic performance.

During the lecture, Dr. Salama-Carr discussed how Translation Studies focuses on the role of language in conflict and war, and the importance of translation ethics, as well as the impact of the translator's ideology on translation.



Dr. Salama-Carr also pointed to the recent challenges that face translators in general, and interpreters as well as the researchers in the field of translation.

At the end of the lecture, Dr. Salama-Carr answered questions and queries from the audience.

Cooperation between YU and Bard College

The President of YU Dr. Zeidan Kafafi discussed possible avenues of research cooperation between YU and Bard College, with the Vice President of Bard College, Dr. Rebecca Granato and the Dean of International Programs at the college Dr. Allen Hanil.

Dr. Kafafi stressed that YU welcomes all forms of scientific and research cooperation that improve educational and research processes at YU, pointing that the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at YU has conducted many research projects that have had positive impact on refugees in Jordan in cooperation with various international organizations.

Dr. Kafafi further pointed to the possibility of collaborating with Bard College in a project for designing online courses and including them in the study plan to enable Jordanian students and refugees to join them.

Dr. Granato, for her part, expressed Bard College's endeavor to collaborate with YU in view of the distinguished reputation it enjoys at the international level. She pointed that the project they intend to launch with YU in 2019 includes designing a multidisciplinary online course that covers issues of human rights from



historical and literary perspectives. Dr. Granato added that the course will include 10 students from YU, 20 refugees from Irbid City, and 15 students from Al-Quds Bard College in Palestine (AQB), and that professors from both AQB and YU will cooperate in teaching it. The program, as Dr. Granato stressed, is designed for the refugees and students to exchange ideas and to work together toward goals that concern them in the field of higher education.

The meeting was attended by Vice Presidents Prof. Anis Khassawneh, Prof. Ahmad Al-Ajlouni, and the director of the Department of International Relations and Projects, Dr. Mwaffaq Otoom.

British Manchester Delegation Visits Yarmouk



The Vice President of YU for Student Affairs and External Communication, Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, met a delegation from the University of Manchester. The delegation included the Vice President of the University for International Relations, Prof. Stephen Flint and the Coordinator of Research Strategies and International Cooperation at the University, Dr. Shaden Jaradat. Means and ways of

enhancing cooperation were discussed between the two sides.

During the meeting, Al-Abed Al-Haq stressed the keenness of YU to enhance cooperation and communication with international universities. He also expressed YU's willingness to send students to study in these universities to qualify them according to the latest academic methods, which

reflects positively on their academic performance after rejoining YU. He also expressed the willingness of YU to enhance cooperation with the University of Manchester to conduct joint academic research, and staff and students exchange, and to receive students from Manchester to learn Arabic at the language center, in addition to the possibility of conducting joint international projects on issues of refugees and displaced persons.

For their part, Flint and Jaradat praised the outstanding academic reputation of YU, confirming the readiness of the University of Manchester to strengthen cooperation with YU through a memorandum of understanding, especially in the fields of scientific research and student exchange.

Hult Prize Competition

The Vice President for Student Affairs and External Relations, Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq sponsored the closing ceremony of the global competition "Hult Prize", the biggest student competition in the world for pioneering social entrepreneurs.

Abed Al-Haq praised the students for participating in extracurricular activities, international projects and prizes that aim at creating constructive ideas needed to solve the problems that societies face, pointing that YU has keen interest in supporting students' creative ideas.

Dr. Abed Al-Haq referred to several success stories for people who, through strong will and good planning, have become independent and entrepreneurial personalities worldwide, and he encouraged students to be innovative to better serve their country, university and themselves.

For her part, the Dean of the Student affairs, Dr. Amal Nusir, pointed that YU students' participation in Hult Prize is a source of pride. She added that this participation shows a good example of YU students' capabilities to deal with challenging social problems, such as poverty and



unemployment, and solving them.

The dean further stated that the Deanship of Student Affairs pay particular attention to extracurricular activities and various competitions, particularly the ones that aim at solving social problems. She added that such activities have positive impact on the students as they gain self-confidence to change for the better.

Mr. Ayman Arindi, the manager of the Hult Prize in Jordan expressed his thanks and appreciation to YU for encouraging their students to participate in the prize and for supporting their ideas to serve the community. Mr. Arindi also gave an introduction about the prize and the

method of application for it.

At the end of the ceremony, the names of the teams, that won the best projects to solve the problem of unemployment, were announced. The team of Fares Al-Shamali, Malak Al-Shamali, Sahira Al-Omari, and Mohammed Al-Qazaqzeh came first place. The team of Leen Al-Zoubi, Mahmoud Salam, Suha Al-Tahat and Raghad Hawari came second, and the team of Ahmad Al-Smadi, Ahmed Balawneh, Mohammed Al-Zwairi came third. The three winning teams from YU will compete locally and then globally in the following stage

of the prize to win \$1 million.

The ceremony was attended by a number of university officials in addition to officials from the award program and a number of university students.

It is worth noting that Hult Prize is a partnership between Hult International Business School and the United Nations Foundation. The Prize is an annual, year-long competition that crowd-sources ideas from college students after challenging them to solve pressing social issues.

Student Sarah Ghraize from the Faculty of Pharmacy manages the prize at YU.