



## Yarmouk University Establishes "ALECSO Chair for Asylum, Displacement and Forced Migration"



migration issues at the level of the Arab member states, thus the chair can contribute to strengthening the center's capabilities by addressing asylum issues and their consequences in Jordan as well as the Arab World, participating in conferences held by the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Arts within the framework of refugees, and building bridges of dialogue and cooperation between the member states of the organization.

The Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk University established the "ALECSO Chair for Asylum, Displacement and Forced Migration" to join the scientific chairs at the Arab World level affiliated with the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science (ALECSO), which functions within the framework of the Arab League.

Dr. Anas Al-Subh, the director of the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk, explained that the establishment of this chair aims at developing work on asylum, displacement and forced

The Secretariat of the Executive Board and the General Conference of the Organization (Section of National Committees) have started to hold the second series of sessions with the officials and members of the 19 scientific chairs affiliated with ALECSO, from 05 to 29 April 2021, considering that the first sessions of the series were held with the scientific chair affiliated with ALECSO from Jordan at Yarmouk University, which is run by Dr. Anas Al-Subh, in the presence of Dr. Alaa Al-Quda, Deputy Director, and Azzam Al-Azam, the Program Supervisor.

## Yarmouk President Participates in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the General Conference of the Union of Arab Universities



The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, participated in the opening of the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Conference of the Union of Arab Universities, which lasted for two days and was sponsored by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Fahd, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mohammed Bin Fahd University of Saudi Arabia, which hosted the virtual conference, with the participation of the presidents and leaders of Arab universities.

At the opening of the conference, His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Fahd delivered a speech in which he confirmed that hosting

such a gathering copes with the growing interest of Saudi Arabia in higher education and its activities, considering the spiking circumstances and developments that the world is witnessing in all fields, which increased burdens on universities to prepare students to respond to such requirements.

The conference selected Dr. Issa bin Hassan Al-Ansari as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the current session to succeed the former President Dr. Majid Najm, President of Helwan University, who handed over the presidency of the Executive Council to Dr. Al-Ansari during the conference. Al-Ansari welcomed all the participants to the conference and pointed

out that hosting such a meeting stems from the social responsibility of the university towards joint Arab work in the fields of higher education.

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Ahmed Abul Gheit, expressed his happiness to participate in the conference, stressing the importance of meeting the challenges facing education and research strategies. Likewise, the Secretary General of the Union, Dr. Amr Ezzat Salameh, thanked His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Fahd for his generous sponsorship of the conference.

During the conference, participants discussed ways to strengthen cooperation among Arabs in many academic fields, considering that the conference sessions included panel discussions on the fields of higher education and scientific research, international classification of universities, ways to expand channels of communication among universities and institutions in addition to cooperation and consultation among Arab universities in the fields of higher education and scientific research.

## Yarmouk Pharmacy Participates in the Development of Protein Nano-Vectors for Vitamin D Deficiency

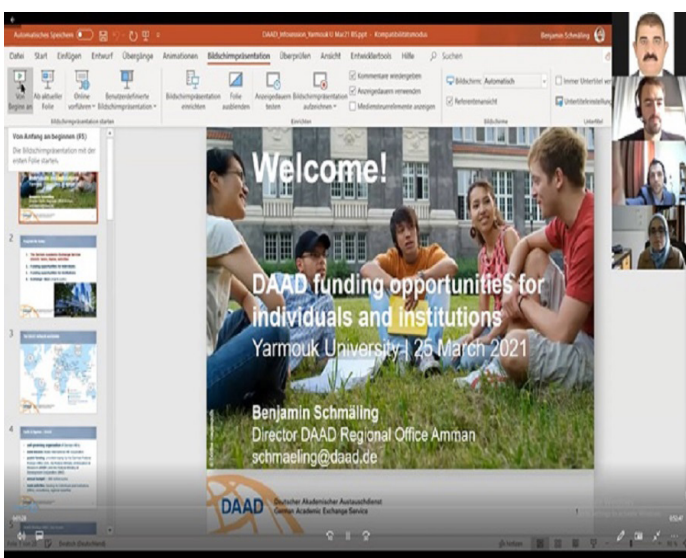
In collaboration with the US University of Illinois-Champaign, University of Florida, King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, and the Polytechnic Institute in Coimbra, Portugal, a joint research team from Yarmouk university and the University of Science and Technology developed a nano-method made of plant proteins to deliver and preserve vitamin D in everyday food and beverages.

Dr. Yazan Al-Akam, the lead researcher in the research project from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Yarmouk University, said that the project aims at developing a way to improve the supply of vitamin D as a way to prevent corona virus and to mitigate the impact of the lack of sun exposure resulting from the bans, pointing out that before the Corona pandemic, specialists believe that the proportion of Jordanians suffering from vitamin D deficiency

or inadequacy is between 50% and 80% while the Corona pandemic has caused an excessive increase in people's demand for the use of vitamin D. He explained that the problem of vitamin D deficiency lies in the ease of breaking it due to acid circles, heat, sunlight/UV rays, and oxidized substances in foods. Thus, the research project extracts the protein from peas to produce nano vectors encapsulating vitamin D and protecting it from all the factors that may lead to its destruction.

Noteworthy is that the results of the research were accepted in the international journal *Nanomaterials* (Q1) (the highest rating) with 4.2 effect factor under the title: "Pea Protein Nanoemulsion Effectively Stabilizes Vitamin D in Food Products: a Potential Supplementation During COVID-19 Pandemic".

## The Union of Mediterranean Universities Concludes Training Course for Yarmouk Faculty Staff Members



The four-week course entitled "How to Develop a Project Proposal - EU Programmes for Non-EU Countries", which was held online through ZOOM, organized by the University's Department of International Relations and Projects in collaboration with the Union of Mediterranean Universities (UNIMED) was concluded. Dr. Ghazi Magableh, the Director of the Department of International Relations and Projects, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Union of Mediterranean Universities for their cooperation in providing such a training course, which helps faculty members to develop their skills and enhance their capacity to prepare projects proposals. He stated that the course aimed at raising the level of skills and



## The Union of Mediterranean Universities - Cont.

knowledge among faculty members on writing project proposals, submitting applications for projects and grants, choosing the right partner from European higher education institutions, developing strong, innovative and successful proposals, and improving the university's research capacity.

Marcelo Scalise, the director of the Federation of Mediterranean Universities, said that the course is held for the first time online and it will be developed to include other universities that are members of the Federation after receiving feedback from participants in this course in order to develop and improve their hubs.

Interestingly, twenty faculty members from various faculties of the University (Information Technology, Computer Science, Economics and Administrative Sciences, Education, and Al-Hajjawi for Technological Engineering, Arts, Medicine, Pharmacy and Tourism) participated in the course, which includes several topics among which outstands the introduction of EU programs for non-European countries, which includes H2020 research support program, Erasmus+ education and Europe Aid program to support cooperation for development, and some others.

## Yarmouk Geography Receives Support for Research Project from DAAD



The Department of Geography at Yarmouk University has received a support for the project "Cooperation in Higher Education in Jordan and Lebanon to Support Faculty Members at Syrian Universities (2021-2022-)" as part of the

program "GEO-IT Technology for Access to Spatial Data for Sustainable Development and Crisis Management" funded by the German Academic Exchange Department (DAAD).

Dr. Khaled Hazaima, the project supervisor, explained that the

program aims at supporting researchers at the early stages of their profession in the fields of research in Geography, Geoinformatics, Earth Sciences, Environment and Agriculture, especially those who have scientific and technical knowledge in GIS techniques. He pointed out that the project includes a group of researchers from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Germany, with the possibility of including other participants from other countries. He also said that the research project aims at encouraging researchers from the three countries to cooperate with their colleagues from Germany in the field of

## Yarmouk Geography Receives Support for Research Project from DAAD - Cont.

e-learning, scientific research and academic exchange, and share experiences in related applications using open geospatial data sources and employing them in the environmental applications in the region.

The research team from Yarmouk

University includes Dr. Khalid Al-Hazaima, the project supervisor, Dr. Ali Muqbel, Dr. Mohammed Zaytoun from the Department of Geography, Dr. Abdullah Al Rawabada of the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, Dr. Anas Al-Suboh, the Director

of the Refugees and Displaced Persons Studies Center at Yarmouk, Dr. Sattam Al-Shaqour of Mu'tah University, and Dr. Awni Khasawna, the Director of the Regional Center for the Teaching of Space Science and Technology for West Asia.

## Strengthening Cooperation between Yarmouk University and the DAAD

The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Nabil Hailat discussed with the German delegates the possibility of supporting the German language at the university as well as the opportunities of collaboration in the field of Middle Eastern Studies and fellowship programs for researchers.

Hailat and the delegates, including the Regional Director of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Amman, Benjamin Schmalings, and the Cultural Attaché at the German Embassy in Amman, Leonie Lorenz, discussed means of cooperation between Yarmouk University and German universities and



academic institutions in the fields of exchanging professors, administrative staff and students.

They also tackled supporting Yarmouk's Arabic language program for Non-Native Speakers, which was established as part of the University's strategic plan to offer certain majors that

meet with the market needs.

The German Director Schmalings expressed his appreciation of such mutual cooperation, stressing the importance of the DAAD grants in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the administrative staff and students of Yarmouk.

## Participants in the 6<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference Recommend the Activation of Modern Technological Programs for Continuous Work to Promote Distance Learning



At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Conference "Modern Orientation of Higher Education in the Arab World and Prospects for the Future", which was organized by the Union of Arab Academics and Scholars of the Arab League, in cooperation with Yarmouk University, the participants recommended the need to work for finding new strategies, plans and practical projects to support the scientific research in Arab universities to promote community innovation in various fields. The participants also recommended the activation of modern technology to strengthen distance learning systems and reduce its shortcomings, and to adopt the concepts of electronic business systems by educational institutions in evaluating e-learning platforms with a primary focus on users as service customers. They also suggested working for formulating comprehensive training programs to enhance university professors' abilities in all fields. Besides, the conference called for the need to prepare comprehensive programs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills system for university students in the Arab World to ensure their active contributions to society.

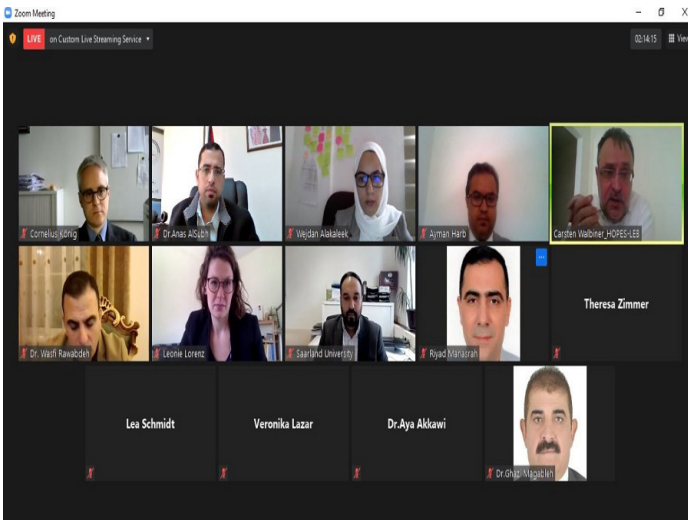
Moreover, the conference called for the preparation of special standards for the educational process and its outputs, which incorporates students, objectives, teaching methods and techniques, as well as methods of evaluation and examination in accordance with international standards. The conference also called for a local legislation in every Arab country related to crisis management, which could make the Corona crisis a catalyst that reflects positively on the modern higher education system.

On the sidelines of the conference, a professional dialogue session chaired by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union of Arab Academics and Scientists, Dr. Saif Al Jabri, was held among the ministers of education, higher education and scientific research in the countries (UAE and Kuwait), in addition to the presidents of universities and colleges of (Yarmouk University, Dubai University/ UAE, Canadian University/UAE, Al-Imam Al-Atham College/ Iraq), and the President of the Educational Center for the Arabic Language of the Arab Gulf States, a number of members of the Board of Directors of the Union of the Arab Academics and Scientists, and the representative of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Sudan concerning the exchange of views on ways to develop higher education in all fields in the Arab world and to improve the use of distance learning in higher education system.

Interestingly, the conference was opened under the auspices of Mr. Faisal al-Fayez with the participation of more than 34 researchers from 15 Arab countries, and it concluded its two-day online sessions at Yarmouk University, hosting (21) research papers from various Arab countries.



## Yarmouk Receives Support for "Developing Innovation Capabilities in Jordanian Universities and Entrepreneurship Education 2021- 2023"



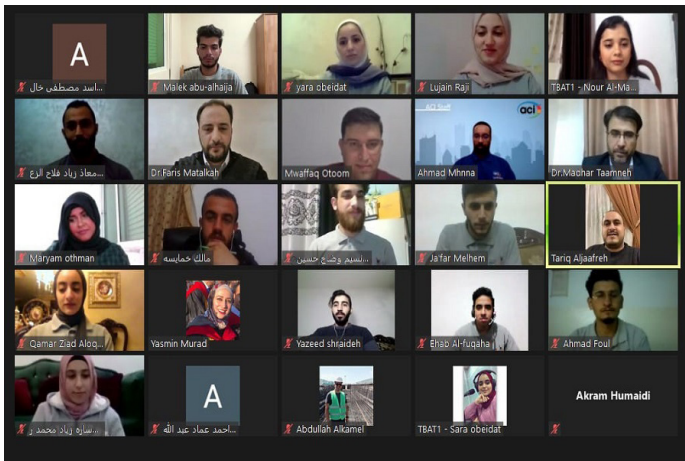
Yarmouk University has received a support for the project "Development of Innovation Capabilities in the Jordanian Universities and Entrepreneurship Education (2021- 2023)" from (DAAD). The University's Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Dr. Riad Al Momani, participated in the opening meeting, where he stressed that the development of scientific, academic and pioneering fields is carried out through a changing and diverse university community committed to attracting and retaining diverse national and international talent. He stressed on the importance of committing to finding a collaborative environment open to a free exchange of ideas for research, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, which ensures that individuals can achieve their full potential. Al-Momani also pointed out that Yarmouk University's creative position stems from its openness to new ideas, expressions, intellectual curiosity and entrepreneurship, emphasizing that this cannot get achieved without cooperation, development, and implementation of joint projects among local and international universities.

Dr. Anas Al-Suboh, the head of the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk University, said that the project aims at promoting entrepreneurship in Jordanian universities by analyzing the needs to determine how to implement education and learning leadership at the three Partner Jordanian universities. He stressed the importance of supporting communication among universities to facilitate the active exchange of best practices, pointing out that one of the important concerns of the project is the participation of Syrian academics.

Noteworthy is that the project seeks to keep pace with scientific and academic development in higher education institutions by focusing on the development of the teaching process, curricula, and entrepreneurship plans. Also, it is noteworthy that the project incorporates Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan, the Hashemite University, and the University of Sarland in Germany and that the research team of Yarmouk University includes Dr. Anas Al-Subh as a Director, Dr. Aya Akawi, Dr. Wajdan Akalik of the Hashemite University, Dr. Ayman Harb of the University of Jordan, and Dr. Nidaullah Bajwa of the University of Sarland in Germany as key partners.



## Yarmouk Ranks at the First Place in the American Concrete Institute Competition for Jordanian Universities



Yarmouk University's team managed to achieve the first place, followed by the University of Mu'tah team in the second place, the Hashemite University team in the third place, and the University of Jordan team in the fourth place. Thus, Dr. Fares Al Matakka, students' branch supervisor at Yarmouk University, said that the competition is part of several competitions held by the American Concrete Institute for Students with the aim of developing their skills in information on concrete technology and construction design as well as creating a spirit of positive competition among students from various Jordanian universities.

Yarmouk University's team won the first place in the American Concrete Institute Competition for Jordanian Universities, which was held remotely among 10 teams from nine different universities participating in the competition: Yarmouk University, the University of Jordan, the University of Science and Technology, the University of Mu'tah, the Hashemite University, Al al-Bayt University, the Applied University of Balqa (Faculty of Technological Engineering- Polytechnic), al-Balqa Applied University (Al-Huson University College), and Al-Ahliyya Amman University. The three-stage competition, which was organized online under the supervision of the American Concrete Institute/ Yarmouk University branch, included various questions and information in the field of concrete and construction design.

The Dean of al-Hajjawi Faculty of Technological Engineering, Dr. Ootom praised the efforts made by the student branch of the American Concrete Institute in organizing this competition and thanked the winning teams for their efforts, stressing the keenness of al-Hajjawi Faculty to support students' activities and develop their skills in different fields.

The opening of the competition was attended by Ahmed Muhanna, the Regional Director of the American Concrete Institute in the Middle East and North Africa, Dr. Mathhir Ta'amneh, the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at Yarmouk University, Dr. Yasmine Murad, Student Branch Supervisor at the University of Jordan, Dr. Tarek Ja'afra, Student Branch Supervisor at Mu'tah University, and Dr. Fares Matakka, Student Branch Supervisor at Yarmouk University.