



Yarmouk Newsletter

Published by The Dept. of Public Relations and Media

Issue No. 32

A Delegation from the European Union Mission to the Kingdom Visits Yarmouk



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, affirmed Yarmouk's interest in being an active partner in the planning and implementation of various projects supported by the European Union Mission to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, given the distinguished academic competencies that Yarmouk embraces in the various scientific fields. During his meeting with a delegation of the European Union to the Kingdom, which included the Vice President of Cooperation and Director of the Department of Economy, Infrastructure, and Trade, Dr. Tiboh Moyer, and Director of Energy, Environment, and Climate Change Programs, Dr. Omar Abu Obaid, Massad pointed out the importance of integrating the academic sector with the various activities and programs of both the public and private sectors, as this contributes to advancing sustainable development in the local community. He added that the university, through the Department of International Relations and Projects, has prepared two draft projects in the field of sustainable development and circular economy.

In return, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor Muwaffaq Omoush, stressed the need to bridge the gap between the academic sector, the industrial sector, and the public sector, which opens many prospects for cooperation between the various institutions affiliated with those sectors, stressing Yarmouk's keenness to participate in the Green-Revolution projects supported by the Mission during next year.

For his part, Moyer said that Jordan is a key partner of the European Union at the global and regional levels, as the vision of the European Union Mission in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is to ensure the implementation and follow-up of bilateral relations in the political, economic, trade, security, and foreign aid fields. He stressed the interest of the European Union Mission to cooperate with Yarmouk to implement a set of scientific and research projects supported by the Erasmus Plus program, especially in the field of responding to the Syrian crisis, in addition to the possibility of cooperation to conduct scientific research and joint projects in the field of agriculture and resource management.



Research Cooperation between Yarmouk and the Institute of Asian Studies at the Lithuanian Vilnius University



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, discussed ways of research and academic cooperation with the Director of the Institute of Asian and Multicultural Studies at Lithuanian Vilnius University, Dr. Henry Diab, who was accompanied by Dr. Violetta Gevorgianin, a professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences at Vilnius University. Massad emphasized Yarmouk's belief in the significance of opening its doors to various types of research and academic cooperation with international

universities and institutes, which provides opportunities for Yarmouk students to complete their higher studies and learn about different cultures. He then praised the important role played by Dr. Henry Diab in enhancing prospects of cooperation between Yarmouk and several European universities, stressing Yarmouk's readiness for further cooperation with the Institute of Asian and Multicultural Studies through conducting scientific research, especially in the field of refugee studies and community service.

Diab praised the institute's cooperation with the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk, which provided the opportunity for students of the Lithuanian Vilnius University to learn and benefit from the center's expertise in the field of refugee studies and community service. He mentioned that organizing scientific visits to refugee camps, such as Zaatar camp and Azmi al-Mufti camp, and meeting a number of Syrian and Palestinian refugee students at the university contributed to enhancing Lithuanian students' experience and knowledge of refugee-oriented issues. However, during the delegation's visit program, a seminar was held at the Refugee Center entitled: "Dialogue across Cultures and Disciplines: Migration Challenges from the Perspective of Language and Social Work".

Cooperation with the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation



The Vice President of Yarmouk University for Planning, Development, Scientific Research, and Quality Affairs, Professor Samer Samara, met a delegation from the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation Office in Amman, headed by the Director of the Office, Dr. Edmund Retka, accompanied by Simon Engelkes and Lianne Onis, to discuss ways to activate the existing cooperation between the University and the Office. Samara stressed that Yarmouk pays careful attention to expanding its network of cooperation with various international institutions and organizations in a way that benefits its educational progress and

enhances its academic reputation. He pointed to the importance of activating the existing memorandum of cooperation between the two sides, according to which the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation trains a group of students from Yarmouk Faculty of Business on how to submit policy papers about the economic challenges of the Jordanian society. Samara also pointed to the possibility of cooperation between the University represented by the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center and the Foundation through the establishment of programs concerned with empowering women in elections. For his part, Retka reviewed the emergence of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation whose activities are distributed in more than 120 countries and has 16 offices in Germany and more than 80 offices in other countries, highlighting its interest in strengthening cooperation with various Jordanian institutions and organizations in the field of social and economic policies.

After the meeting, the delegation members visited the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center where the Center's head, Prof. Reem Al-Kharouf, talked about the establishment of the center, its objectives, the services it provides in the fields of training, research and project implementation, its medium-term strategic plan for the years 2022 - 2024, and its future aspirations to be a national and regional research reference that supports decision-makers and researchers in asylum and migration issues.

Cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom



As a result of Yarmouk University's endeavor to strengthen and extend bridges of cooperation with various educational and research institutions at the regional and international levels and to expand the base of active partners in various academic and research fields, the President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met a delegation from the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom headed by the Foundation's Regional Director, Mr. George Denhart.

During the meeting, the two parties discussed ways of enhancing cooperation between Yarmouk University and Friedrich Naumann Foundation at the level of scientific studies and research projects in various issues of common interest such as, empowering women, preparing youth

and enabling them to engage in political life, and developing education and integrating digital education. Besides, they discussed conducting academic research on issues concerned with the democratic and economic empowerment of community members and supporting the efforts of finding solutions for various societal challenges.

During the meeting, Massad stressed the keenness of Yarmouk University to strengthen ties of cooperation with regional and international institutions that support the several fields of scientific research in a way that contributes to supporting the researchers' efforts and enabling them to conduct studies and implement projects to serve the local and international community. He then emphasized the significance of paying careful attention to resolving societal problems and empowering all segments of the society, especially women and youth.

The delegation reviewed the latest procedures related to the two recent studies carried out by the Foundation in cooperation with the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center at Yarmouk University, pointing out that the results of both studies will be announced in a press conference. However, the meeting was attended by Vice Presidents of the University, Prof. Muwaffaq Omoush, Prof. Riyad Al-Momani, Prof. Samer Samara, and Prof. Reem Al-Kharouf, the Director of the Refugee Center, besides a number of officials from the institution and the university.

Yarmouk Language Center Organizes a Breakfast Banquet for Students of the Arabic Language Program for Speakers of Other Languages



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, participated with the students of the Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages Program a breakfast banquet organized by the University's Language Center. During the gathering, Massad stressed that Yarmouk is an attractive academic environment for students from different countries due to the academic programs it offers and the pioneering scientific reputation it enjoys as well as the various nationalities it includes, pointing out that the university represented by the

Language Center pays a great attention to students studying in the Arabic Language program for Non-Arabic Speakers. In return, the Director of the Center, Professor Lamia Hammad, affirmed the Center's belief in the importance of cultural openness and awareness of customs and traditions as they embody the meanings of respect and dialogue between different Arab, Islamic, and international nations. She pointed out that organizing such activity aims at involving students of the Arabic Language Program for Speakers of Other Languages into university life, consolidating relations between them, and introducing them to Jordanian traditional food.

For their part, the students of the program thanked the university and the Language Center for organizing the activity, appreciating, at the same time, the attention paid by Yarmouk University to its international students as well as the keenness of the center's management and staff to create all the conditions that ensure a sound learning environment for them.

It is noteworthy that the number of students of the Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages Program at Yarmouk University is 162 students coming from 10 countries around the world: China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, America, Peru, Britain, India and Bosnia.

Research Cooperation in the Medical Field between Yarmouk and UCLA



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, affirmed that Jordan is distinguished among its peers in the region by embracing a distinguished medical educational sector, which is one of the largest tributaries of the Arab and regional market of distinguished competencies in the field of medicine, nursing, and medical support services. During his meeting with a delegation from the College of Medicine at UCLA, which included Dr. Nevin Al-Farra, Dr. Cecily Gallup, Dr. Faisal Saab, and Dr. Zoe Statopoulos, Massad indicated that the Faculty of Medicine at Yarmouk University includes distinguished academic competencies pointing that the university adopts a training system for its medicine students in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and medical services hospitals. He added that the Faculty of Medicine in Yarmouk seeks to network with medical faculties of distinguished international universities to establish a solid base for student scholarships. Moreover, he pointed out Yarmouk's keenness to consolidate its cooperation with UCLA University by strengthening the student exchange program, which includes training and qualifying medicine students, stressing the importance of the Global Health Program "DGSOM" hosted by UCLA University, which aims at enhancing opportunities for improving health globally. He then emphasized that choosing the city of Irbid to be the home for implementing the DGSOM project is an ideal choice in view of the affiliation of Irbid's hospitals with the Ministry of Health as well as the military and private sectors. In return, the members of the delegation confirmed the interest of the Faculty of Medicine at UCLA in cooperating with Yarmouk University in various fields, especially in the implementation of the DGSOM program, which focuses on training students in the countries of the Middle East including more than one stage for training students in practical terms and conducting scientific research.

The delegation also met with the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Manar Al-Luama, who reviewed the establishment of the faculty and its departments and accompanied the delegation on a tour in the various facilities and laboratories of the faculty. Besides, the delegation met with the Director of the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center, Dr. Reem Al-Kharouf, who indicated that the center seeks to achieve the university's vision of becoming a global center for research programs on asylum and forced migration.

Receiving 313 Students in the Arabic Language Program for Speakers of Other Languages



The program of Arabic for speakers of other languages at the Language Center of Yarmouk University received 313 male and female students from 17 western and Islamic countries, including the United States of America, Britain, Belgium, France, Russia, Lithuania, Bosnia, Thailand, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Peru, Turkey, Senegal, and Sweden. The center held an exam to determine the level of new students in the Arabic language for non-native speakers, where the director of the center, Professor Lamia Hammad, said that the exam measures students' skills of reading, listening, speaking, writing, and grammar. Students who pass the exam, she explained, at an average of (60%) or above are exempted from registering "one level for the Arabic language course for non-native speakers", and they get directly registered for the courses of their study plan. As for students with an average below than (60%), they get categorized into three levels according to their skills and are accordingly registered in "a one-level course of Arabic language for non-native speakers". She then added that the center has recently computerized the placement test for non-Arabic students emphasizing that the computerized exam got effective in this first semester 2022 /2023.

Launching the Results of the Evaluation Study of Women Empowerment Program for Leadership Roles



At the end of the ceremony, an extensive discussion took place among the audience about the project and its importance in terms of developing the scientific and practical skills of the administrative staff and motivating them to build on the quality and progress of the administrative work at the university.

The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, sponsored launching the results of the evaluation study of Women Empowerment Program for Leadership Roles, which was organized by Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Woman Studies at the university and funded by the Canadian government in cooperation with the Forum of Federations. Massad stressed the university's keenness to provide its administrative and academic cadres with distinguished human skills as evident in the program of empowering women. He then appreciated the support of the Canadian government and the Forum of Federations in choosing Yarmouk University to be the first Jordanian partner to sign a memorandum of understanding in early 2018 for such a project, which is implemented by Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Woman Studies at the university.

For her part, the Director of the Forum of Federations, Dr. Laila Huawei, addressed the definition of the Forum, its goals and aspirations, noting that it is an international organization working to develop and exchange experiences on the practice of federal and decentralized governance through a global network. She added that the forum was established by the Canadian government in 1999, remarking that it includes a membership of 9 countries: Australia, Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Switzerland. She then mentioned that the forum seeks to promote inclusive and responsive governance, including pluralism and gender equality in federal and decentralized countries in transition.

The Director of Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Woman Studies, Dr. Nadia Hiasat, said that it was wise to conduct an evaluation study for this program to simulate the methodology used for implementing its plan to determine the extent of achieving the desired objectives and the extent of its impact on performance. She added that the results of the study represent a reference for the project's implementers, financiers, and supporters as well as those interested in the field of promoting women's participation in leadership and decision-making positions.

The Director of the project, Dr. Amna Al-Khasawneh, presented the results of the study pointing out how they show that the training program contributed to enhancing the capabilities of the administrative staff at Yarmouk University and developing their learning skills. She added that the results also showed the participants' satisfaction with the training program.

International Relations Organizes an Introductory Session for the ESN



The International Relations and Projects Department at Yarmouk University, in cooperation with the Erasmus Plus National Office in Amman and the European Union Mission in Jordan, organized an introductory session on the opportunities offered by the European Union for student exchange and the Erasmus Student Network (ESN). This included the participation of Yassin Khalil, the representative of the student network in the Middle East and Africa, Paula Pope, the Vice President of the Student Network, and Tina Braihav, the Education Officer in the European Union.

At the beginning of the session, the director of the department, Dr. Muwaffaq Otoom, welcomed the participants stressing that Yarmouk University is keen to participate in the various projects proposed by the European Erasmus Plus program, which provides opportunities for university students to participate in student exchange programs and faculty members with opportunities to participate in projects, scientific research, and exchange experiences with researchers from different universities across the globe. After that, the members of the delegation reviewed the emergence of the ESN, which is one of the largest student gatherings in Europe that aims at supporting and developing students' exchange, noting that the ESN is present in more than 1,000 institutions of higher education around the world and that it includes about 40,000 young people who provide their services to about 350,000 international students each year.

Yarmouk President Meets Delegations from the Netherlands and Belgium



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met with a delegation from Leiden University in the Netherlands, which included the advisor for educational grants and international projects, Kathleen Smits, and the director of the International Mobility Program in the Dutch office of Erasmus Plus, Alexandra Rimmekers, to discuss ways of enhancing scientific and research cooperation between the two sides. Massad stressed that Yarmouk is always interested in scientific and research cooperation with various international educational institutions, pointing out that Yarmouk has many cooperation agreements with universities and international educational institutions, according to which the university implements projects and scientific research, and exchanges students and faculty members, especially through the Erasmus Plus program. He also praised the prestigious scientific reputation of the Dutch University of Leiden, especially in the field of archeology and anthropology. In return, the delegation members acknowledged Yarmouk University for its successful cooperation with international universities and institutions of higher education attributing such success to the diversity and uniqueness of the specializations offered by Yarmouk. They then reviewed the development of Leiden University where more than 150 study programs are offered and more than 40 national and international research institutes are found.

Besides, Massad met Dr. Philippe Moreau from the Office of International Relations at Saint Louis University in Belgium to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two universities. Massad stressed the importance of continuing cooperation with Saint Louis University, mentioning that 6 students, two faculty members, and a member of the administrative staff were sent to Saint Louis University through Erasmus Plus to benefit from its expertise in the French language. He also mentioned that Yarmouk received 4 students from Saint Louis in its program of Arabic for speakers of other languages. In response, Moreau stressed the importance of continuing the effective academic cooperation between the two sides in a way that enhances the educational and cultural process in both universities.



Spanish Language Day



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met with a delegation from Spain that included the Director of the Spanish Cultural Center in Amman, Juan Becente Bequeiras Salinas, the Education Coordinator at the Center, Dr. Almudena Hassan Bosque, and the Training Coordinator, Christina Thagri. During the meeting, Massad stated that the university offers courses in the Spanish language through the Department of Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts and the Spanish language package offered by the University's Language Center. The delegation members participated in the activities of the Spanish Language Day, which included a series of Spanish language and cultural presentations introduced by Spanish language students and some other activities including a video presentation about Spanish proverbs, and the famous traditional foods and tourist sites in Spain.

The First International Conference on “The Future of Public Administration: Global Experiences”



- Hanandeh: “Securing the future of Jordan is the prosperity of our children and youth”.
- Massad: “The King's thought constitutes the compass of the University's strategies and action plans”.
- German Ambassador: “We support the efforts of the Jordanian government in terms of developing and enhancing the public administration”.

The Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Ahmed Hanandeh, stressed that securing the future of Jordan is the prosperity of Jordanian children and youth and that Jordan always deserves our best efforts to secure the future of growing generations. This came during the minister's sponsorship of the opening of the activities of the first international conference entitled "The Future of Public Administration: Global Experiences" organized by the Department of Public Administration at Yarmouk's Faculty of Business in the Fairmont Amman Hotel, with the participation of researchers from 20 Arab and foreign countries. During the opening of the conference, Hanandeh stressed that the government must develop itself (i.e. systems, policies and tools) and adopt creativity and innovation as well as concepts of flexibility and agility in responding to the changes taking place. Hanandeh also pointed that there is a great burden on educational institutions in terms of developing the skills of graduates by guiding university students to the right path in all fields and providing them with digital skills, which have become the basic requirement for all disciplines and sectors of work.

In his turn, Yarmouk University President, professor Islam Massad, affirmed that Yarmouk University takes the thought of His Majesty King Abdullah II as a compass for its strategies and action plans, noting that His Majesty's royal messages and directives urge the need to make a qualitative leap in the performance of the public sector, which is considered as one of the most important fields of development. He also said that Yarmouk University has always been initiative to follow up on local affairs and work to keep pace with them through its faculties and scientific centers, as evident in the sincere efforts of the Department of Public Administration at the Faculty of Business

to prepare for such an international conference, which reviews important issues like excellence and innovation, the future of artificial intelligence, and the management tools of the future.

The German Ambassador in Amman, Bernhard Kampmann, expressed the interest and support of the Federal Republic of Germany for the reforms that the Jordanian government is working on with regard to the public administration, which embodies the keenness of His Majesty King Abdullah II and his permanent directives to the government to implement such reforms towards improving the services provided to citizens. Kampmann then stressed the important role of citizens in developing the public administration sector, indicating that the quality of public administration is linked to human resources, especially women and people with disabilities. Besides, the Regional Director of the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) in Jordan, Elisabeth Gerbach, expressed the agency's support for this academic conference, which is part of GIZ's support for scientific activities related to the new administration with reference to the speed that has become an essential feature to our world today. She added that countries should support, develop, and motivate public administration to encounter the challenges of the century, praising the efforts of Jordan to keep pace with the process of modernization in various areas of administration.

The Dean of the Faculty of Business, Dr. Michael Sweidan, indicated that the issue of public administration in all its dimensions and entitlements has constituted a national concern and a priority in the comprehensive development policies of countries as the public sector has been leading the sustainable development process across the world. He explained that this sector emphasizes using an important part of manpower, regulating different markets, and controlling the pace of partnership with the private sector and its institutions. He added that the royal interest in developing the public sector through well-defined initiatives is present in the royal discussion papers as well as His Majesty the King's continuous directives to the government to make the best use of all means to raise the efficiency of the government performance and investment. Sweidan pointed out that holding such a conference is to explore the prospects and future of public administration in the countries of the world and to deepen our understanding of the experiences governments and countries have gone through.

Dr. Shaker Al-Adwan, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, said in his speech that holding the conference came in response to the transformation witnessed by the world and the region at all economic, political and social levels. Al-Adwan reviewed the main themes of the conference that focus on the future of digital transformation and artificial intelligence, the future of government innovation, government excellence, institutional reputation in the public sector, the future of human resources in the public sector, and the future of the public sector, highlighting that the future of the food security management and the future of public transport are among the conference's most significant topics.

Al-Hijjawi Participates in the SOFEX 2022 Military Exhibition



Al-Hijjawi Faculty of Engineering Technology at Yarmouk University introduced three projects in the SOFEX Military Exhibition 2022, which was launched in Aqaba under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein as part of the SOFEX 2022 Conference and Exhibition with the participation of 38 countries and more than 300 companies specialized in defense equipment and weapons. The President of the University, Professor Islam Massad, stressed the University's pride in the ability of its students to link their projects with the needs of different knowledge economies. In his turn, the Dean of Al-Hijjawi Faculty of Engineering Technology, Dr. Muwaffaq Otoom, explained that the stages of selecting the three projects began with the nomination of 13 projects from the different departments of the Faculty. Seven projects were selected by the Research and Scientific Cooperation Department at the Jordanian Center for Design and Development for the official interview. The first project, he explained, was for students, Iyas Abu Mousa and Razan Mashalji, supervised by Dr. Yousra Obeidat from the Department of Electronics Engineering, the second was for students Mahmoud Fayyad and Mohamed Jawabreh, supervised by Engineer Mamoun El-Tantawy from the Department of Electronics Engineering, and the third project was for students Salsabil Al-Hussainat, Sarah Al-Momani, and Nour Nasir, supervised by Dr. Sherif Abdel Razek from the Department of Communications Engineering.

Yarmouk Wins the 1st and 3rd Places in the Innovative Hackathon: "Friendly Environment"



Yarmouk University students won first and third places in the pioneering Hackathon competition, which was organized within the activities of SAXEED.ECO supported by DAAD, in partnership between Yarmouk University, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Mosteghanemi University in Algeria, and Cummins University in Germany. Such a gain, which was supervised by the Center for Leadership and Innovation at the university, came after a serious competition between 15 student teams from several universities that presented pioneering projects in the field of a friendly environment.

The student team, consisting of Ahmed Shehab, Sarah Husban, and Al-Harith Mahmoud from the Civil Engineering Department at Al-Hijjawi Faculty of Engineering Technology, won the first place for their project "Exploitation of Zibar from Olive Mills Waste in the Field of Construction", while the student team, consisting of Abdullah Naamneh from the Department of Electronics Engineering, Muhammad Al-Awdat from the Electrical Power Engineering Department, and Lamis Rawashdeh from the Department of Chemistry, won the third place for their project "Main", which focuses on ways to reduce evaporation from Dams and bodies of water.